Bombay Gazette

SUPPLEMENT.

BOMBAY : TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1898.

THE BUDGET ESTIMATES.

DEFICIT OF FIVE CRORES.

NO NEW TAXATION.

STERLING AND RUPEE LOANS.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

THE Financial Statement was presented at yesterday's meeting of the Supreme Council by Sir James Westland and published as a *Gazette of India* (extraordinary). Below we give the most important portions :—

PART I.

INTRODUCTION.

The year now closing has been marked by a singular succession of calamities. When it opened, the famine due to the drought of 1896 was becoming more and more intense both in Northern and in Southern India, and plague was raging in some parts of the Bombay Presidency. Before the first three months had expired, the eastern side of India was shaken by an earthquake which caused much damage to the buildings and the Railway works in the districts which were affected by it. During the rest of the year we were engaged in meeting a series of fanatical attacks by the tribes on our North-Western Frontier, and repelling them by military operations conducted under conditions of very great physical difficulties and necessarily great expenditure.

2. These circumstances are necessarily reflected in the Financial Statement which I have to lay before the Council, in which I shall have to declare for the closing year a deficit of larger amount than any that has gone before it.

3. But there is also a brighter side in my statement. The harvests of 1897 have been more bountiful than any within recent memory, and the recovery from the effects of famine and scarcity promises to be a very rapid one. The Revenue returns of January were sufficient in themselves to shew that the crisis had passed, and gave hopes of early return of prosperous times. And at the present moment there are signs of peace on our frontiers and of the submission of the still outstanding tribes to the General Commanding our forces. Our financial position for the year that is about to open will therefore, I trust, be a reflection of times of returning peace and prosperity, although as peace is not yet assured to us, I am obliged to include in my estimates of expenditure a considerable provision not only for the return of our troops from the theatre of war, but also for the possible resumption, before their return, of military operations.

ACCOUNTS OF 1896-97.

4. A couple of months ago I announced that the accounts of 1896-97 had been closed, and that the results, as is usually the case, closely corresponded with, and were slightly better than, the revised estimate presented to Council in March last. The comparative figures are as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit
	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
Estimated in March 1897	93,803,800	95,790,700	1,986,900
By actual accounts	94,129,741	95,834,763	1,705,022
Improvement.....	325,941	—44,063	281,878

The improvement in Revenue was mostly due to somewhat short estimates of Land Revenue and of Railway earnings. Under all other heads the estimates were very closely followed except under Civil Works, under which the short expenditure, being nearly all Provincial or Local, merely gives rise to a cross-entry under "Provincial adjustment."

REVISED ESTIMATES OF 1897-98.

5. For the year 1897-98 we have to announce a deficit of Rx. 5,283,100 being greater by Rx. 2,819,100 than that which was anticipated in the Budget Estimates. This result is entirely due to the expenditure on famine being about 50 per cent in excess of our estimates, and to the outlay involved in the military operations on the North-Western Frontier. Separating out the figures connected with these two subjects, the results of the year compare as follows with the Budget Estimates :—

	Budget.	Revised.	Difference.	
	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.	
Excluding Famine and War—				
Revenue.....	95,676,800	96,479,200	802,400	Better.
Expenditure....	94,499,600	92,547,000	1,952,600	Better. (a)
Famine Relief.....	3,641,200	5,391,800	1,750,600	Worse.
Warlike Operations.	.....	3,823,500	3,823,500	Worse.
Deficit.....	2,464,000	5,283,100	2,819,100	Worse.

(a) Mostly by reason of improvement in Exchange.

It is perhaps worthy of note that the deficit of the year is actually less than we have spent on Famine Relief; in other words, if we had had no famine relief expenditure to meet, we would have borne all the War charges out of our ordinary revenue, and would have had a small surplus over.

6. The comparison between Budget and Revised Estimates set out in greater detail in the form I have adopted on previous occasions is as follows :—

ESTIMATES OF 1897-98.

	Budget.	Revised.	Revised.	Revised.
STERLING IN ENGLAND—				
Revenue .....£	173,000	192,000	19,000	..
Expenditure .....£	16,088,500	16,291,000	...	202,500
NET EXCHANGE ON ABOVE .....Rx	10,504,200	9,015,500	1,488,700	...
	26,419,700	25,114,500	1,305,200	...
	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
REVENUES IN INDIA—				
Land Revenue	25,646,200	25,932,300	286,100	...
Opium	5,816,200	5,242,300	...	573,900
Salt	8,734,000	8,625,000	...	109,000
Other Principal Heads of Revenue	23,578,200	23,626,000	47,800	...
Departmental Receipts, (a)	6,945,800	7,208,800	263,000	..
Railways	20,682,100	21,165,000	482,900	...
Irrigation	3,122,500	3,591,100	468,600	..
Military Works.....	50,000	50,800	800	..
Army.....	814,600	820,700	6,100	...
	95,389,600	96,262,000	872,400	...
EXPENDITURE IN INDIA—				
Direct Demands on Revenues—				
Opium	2,654,000	2,361,800	289,200	...
Other.....	8,520,400	8,406,700	113,700	..
Interest (b)	—951,900	—992,700	30,800	...
Civil Departments	19,308,800	19,584,600	...	275,800
Famine Relief	3,641,200	5,389,000	...	1,747,800
Protective Works	25,000	22,400	2,600	..
Railways	13,752,000	13,687,600	64,400	..
Irrigation	3,110,000	3,135,700	...	25,700
Military Works and Special Defences ...	1,207,300	1,065,800	141,500	...
Civil Works	4,398,200	4,172,100	226,100	..
Army	16,968,900	16,430,500	538,400	...
„ Warlike operations	...	3,869,800	...	3,869,800
	72,623,900	77,136,300	..	4,512,400
PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENT—				
Deduction made for charges taken to Provincial and Local Balances.....	—1,190,000	— 705,700	..	484,300
Surplus(+) Deficit(—)..	—2,464,000	—5,283,100	...	2,819,100

(a) Including Interest and Receipts under Civil Works.

(b) This entry in the Indian portion of the accounts is a minus one, as the interest passed to the charge of Railways and Irrigation is greater than the whole amount of interest payable in India.

7. Of the increase in English expenditure, £161,500 occurs under the head of Interest (including discount on loans raised), and is due to the increased loan operations which were rendered necessary by reason of our inability, to which I shall presently allude, to keep the Secretary of State in funds to the extent we anticipated at the time of the Budget Estimates. Another large item, £51,600, is due to stores sent out for military works in India and is met by the corresponding reduction under the same head in the Indian Accounts. And a further special demand for £23,100 worth of stores was made in connection with the military operations on the North-Western Frontier. No other differences in the English Account are large enough to be mentioned here.

8. It will be seen that by the improvement in the rate of exchange at which the English transactions are brought to account, our Revised Estimates shew, even with the somewhat increased expenditure, a result better than Budget by Rx. 1,488,700. The Budget Estimates were drawn up on the basis of a rate of 14·46 pence; whereas the rate actually realized has been 15·38 pence.

9. In the Account of Revenue in India, the Revised Estimates shew an improvement under Land Revenue of Rx. 286,100 which may be put down as the effect of the excellent harvests; but there is against this a heavy loss on opium due to the falling-off in prices in China. The price realized for Bengal opium has been R1,023 per chest only against R1,075 taken in the Budget Estimates, and in Bombay the falling-off in the trade was such that we had to reduce the pass duty from October 27, 1897, to R500. The other heads of Revenue produced, as a whole, a very little less than we estimated.

10. The improvement under Departmental Receipts is more than accounted for by the excess received in the shape of Post Office Revenue, Rx. 42,200, and of Telegraph Revenue, Rx. 218,500.

11. Under Railways we have received Rx. 482,900 more than we estimated, the important items being :—

1.	East Indian Railway	Better	600,000
2.	North-Western Railway	Better	500,000
3.	Burma Railways	Better	85,000
4.	Indian Midland	Better	80,000
5.	Rajputana-Malwa	Worse	290,000
6.	Bombay, Baroda and Central India (net earnings).....	Worse	180,000
7.	Great Indian Peninsula (net earnings)	Worse	330,000
	Net of the above.....	Better	465,000

Of these, the first and largest is due to movements of grain towards the famine districts, and the second chiefly to the movements of troops in connection with the war. Plague and scarcity account for the losses on the three Railways which run towards the Western Presidency.

12. The very high receipts from Irrigation occur mostly in Northern India, and are due to the dryness of the earlier part of the year and the consequent high demand for water. The impressions produced on the people by a year of scarcity, no doubt, tend in themselves to stimulate the use of irrigation-water.

13. Passing to the Expenditure side, we have first a saving under Opium of Rx. 289,200, which for the most part means that the crop for which we had to pay fell short of our expectations; our custom is to assume, in the Budget, an average crop at least.

14. The extra expenditure under Civil Departments amounts to Rx. 275,800, and is for the most part connected with plague operations, the head under which it is mostly shewn being Medical Rx. 258,000. There is an excess also under Jails, amounting to Rx. 84,700, and due partly to high prices and partly to increase of jail population, one of the side-effects of the general scarcity.

15. The saving under Military Works I have already explained as meaning merely a transfer of the expenditure to the English Account.

16. Under Army, apart from the warlike operations, we have a saving of Rx. 538,400. There has been a saving of about Rx. 200,000 on Commissariat and Transport services which would have had to be spent if the troops had not been absent on field service; Rx. 66,500 has been saved in exchange compensation by the rise of rates, and Rx. 77,400 in pay and allowances; the despatch of a British regiment to Natal and a Native regiment to Mombassa brings a saving of Rx. 52,200. Against these savings we have had to meet excess expenditure of Rx. 65,800 arising out of increase of prices, and Rx. 10,900 on account of Jubilee concessions to the troops. The other items of difference do not call for special mention.

17. The excesses of Rx. 1,747,800 under famine and Rx. 3,869,800 under Warlike operations will be separately dealt with.

FAMINE RELIEF.

18. The effects of the famine upon our accounts extend far beyond the mere cost of famine relief. Even the administration of famine relief, taken by itself, necessitates increase of establishments charged under the heads of District Administration (Land Revenue), General Administration, Police, Medical, and others; but besides that, the high prices which accompany a period of famine increase the expenditure on jails, on petty establishments, and, above all, on the army. Our revenue, moreover, is seriously affected, the Land Revenue and Provincial Rates and Forests directly, and such revenues as Salt and Excise, by the general pressure on the people.

19. The total cost, direct and indirect, of the famine is estimated as follows :—

	1896-97.	1897-98.
Spent on Famine Relief.....	2,079,500	5,391,800
Remissions and losses of Land Revenue (independent of suspensions)	871,600	576,400
Loss of Salt and Excise Revenue	417,800	357,600
Loss under other principal heads of Revenue.....	337,800	391,300
Loss of Railway Revenue	1,504,100	1,477,400
Charges for compensation for dearness of provisions, and other increases due to high prices—		
Under Army.....	506,400	604,100
Under other heads.....	182,900	320,500
Other charges arising in connection with famine	76,700	123,400
Total...	5,976,800	9,242,500
Deduct—Increase of Irrigation Revenue due to drought.....	424,900	556,700
Net cost, direct and indirect, of famine and scarcity	5,551,900	8,685,800
		14,237,700

These figures omit the suspensions of Land Revenue amounting to Rx. 1,853,500 which if the seasons are good, will be recovered.

20. As regards the direct expenditure on Famine Relief, the following figures shew the general results in Rx. :—

	1896-97.	1897-98.		Total of
	Accounts.	Budget.	Revised.	1 and 3
India	1,215	1,300	8,200	9,400
Central Provinces ...	303,271	680,000	1,340,000	1,643,000
Burma	55,524	66,600	62,700	118,200
Bengal	244,208	1,004,800	889,400	1,133,600
N.-W. Provinces ...	993,330	850,000	1,069,000	2,062,300
Punjab	86,149	167,800	125,600	214,700
Madras	56,285	200,400	928,600	984,900
Bombay	325,659	670,300	965,500	1,291,200
England	8,360	...	1,800	10,200
Exchange	5,524	...	1,000	6,500
Total ...	2,079,525	3,641,200	5,391,800	7,471,300

21. The great excess of expenditure, as compared with Budget Estimate, has, it will be seen, occurred in the Central Provinces and in Madras. As regards the first of these, it became evident very early in the year that, though the Chief Commissioner had provided a proportionally larger amount than any other province, the people were in a more poverty-stricken condition than even he had anticipated. In some parts of that province there had been a long succession of bad seasons, and the population had nothing whatever to fall back upon. When the time came at which in other provinces the beginning of recovery was apparent, the people of the Central Provinces were as poor and as hardly pressed as ever, and it will be seen that in 1897-98 more money has been spent on famine relief in that small province than in any of the others.

22. As regards Madras, we are still in communication with that Government on the question of its failure to foresee the extent of the demands it would have to meet. Twelve months ago I stated on the authority of the latest estimates received from the Government of Madras that the province was slightly affected by famine, that its revenues had suffered very little, and that it would be able to meet, without assistance from Imperial Funds, the whole or nearly the whole of its famine expenditure. It must be remembered that the harvest in that province largely depends upon the rains of December to February, so that, so far as realization of the actual

condition of things was concerned, Madras was not until May in the same position in which the other Governments were in January. But the demands of the province in respect of famine expenditure came upon the Government of India in June with a severity which we had not anticipated.

28. The North-Western Provinces spent somewhat more, and Bombay a good deal more, than was anticipated at Budget time; but I explained last year that I could not put forward the estimates of famine expenditure with anything approaching to an assurance that they would prove sufficient.

24. The following figures will be of interest shewing, both in money spent and in people relieved, the history of famine relief in the several provinces of India. The figures do not include famine operations in Berar, or in the Native States of the Central India Agency:—

EXPENDITURE IN Rx.

	Quarter ending December 1896.	March 1897.	June 1897.	Sept. 1897.	Dec. 1897.
India	200	1,000	2,100	3,700	1,800
Central Provinces	23,100	277,200	515,800	580,800	328,900
Burma	20,500	35,000	24,600	32,400	7,800
Bengal	4,700	239,500	530,700	352,000	26,300
N.-W. Provinces	42,800	919,000	781,200	309,800	7,000
Punjab	9,600	76 500	62,800	48,000	12,700
Madras.....	3,400	52,800	260,300	589,500	80,600
Bombay	26,500	299,100	314,600	456,600	174,600
Total	130,800	1,900,100	2,492,100	2,372,800	639,700

The expenditure in all India in January 1898 was only Rx. 32,000, of which more than half was in the Central Provinces; famine relief operations had practically come to an end.

25. The following is a statement of the units relieved, stated in thousands, a unit being one person relieved for one day:—

THOUSANDS OF UNITS RELIEVED.

	Quarter ending. December 1896.	March 1897.	June 1897.	September 1897.	December 1897.
Central Provinces.....	2,105	29,190	52,458	54,404	23,483
Burma	1,489	2,524	1,472	2,208	518
Bengal	1,480	36,438	68,131	32,444	287
N.-W. Provinces.....	21,246	112,367	1.0,037	39,984	716
Punjab	1,233	9,389	8,513	2,433	4
Madras	1,451	5,619	32,313	53,092	1,764
Bombay.....	3,135	33,179	39,924	37,742	6,061
Total.....	32,159	228,706	312,908	222,307	32,833

Total..... 828,893.000 unis, being an average of 1,814,000 per day for 15 months.

The number on relief was highest in May and June 1897, during which period about 3,650,000 persons were relieved each day.

26. Besides the direct outlay upon Famine Relief, the famine operations affect also another portion of our accounts, as the Governments in India have to meet part of the necessities of the population by a liberal extention of the system of agricultural advances. The ordinary operations under this head of our accounts amount to advances a little in excess of Rx. 250,000 and recoveries somewhat short of this amount, the duration of the advances being only one or two years in some cases (such as advances for seed) to five or ten years and sometimes still longer periods in cases of advances for permanent land improvements. In 1896-97, however, the amount advanced came to Rx. 1,104,335 against recoveries amounting, to Rx. 287,095, that is, a net amount of Rx. 817,240; and the net advances of the current year are about two-thirds of this amount.

27. The figures stated by provinces are as follows, the *minus* signs indicating cases in which the recoveries exceeded the amounts advanced:—

	Net Loans to Cultivators and the like. 1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98. Revised Estimate.
	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
India	—11,813	—6,809	—2,939	—1,500
Central Provinces	65,840	3,311	71,365	47,900
Burma	—10,187	1,104	8,606	14,100
Assam	160	—149	—78	500
Bengal	—10,837	—6,009	42,257	138,200
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	23,452	—3,453	311,956	1,100
Punjab	—20,723	—2,580	43,213	54,700
Madras	—49,242	—14,783	24,813	155,200
Bombay	43,362	42,124	318,067	153,400
Total ...	30,017	12,756	817,240	563,600

It is worth while to observe that we recently made special enquiries about the punctuality of repayment in the case of these advances to cultivators, and were assured on all hands by the Local Governments and by the Revenue authorities subordinate to them, that the cultivators habitually observed the obligations which they accepted in respect of the advances, and that the outstandings were sound and good debts.

28. The figures which I have so far set out include only the operations of the Government in the matter of Famine Relief; but it would not be becoming in me if I were to pass from the subject of the contest with famine, without reference to the large measure of assistance which was given, in supplement to the operations of Government, by the munificent subscriptions to the Charitable Relief Fund. The Honourable Mr. James who has had much to do with the direction of the operations of that Fund has been good enough to give me, in anticipation of the Central Committee's formal report, the following summary of its appropriation:—

The Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund was founded at a public meeting held at the Dalhousie Institute, Calcutta, on the 14th January 1897. Followed up by a meeting at the Guild-hall in London on 16th January, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, and by meetings in other parts of the United Kingdom, the Fund grew rapidly till it reached a total of Rx. 1,670,000. Of this, Rx. 300,000 were subscribed in India, and Rx. 1,370,000 were received from countries abroad, principally from the United Kingdom which contributed the splendid sum of Rs. 1,230,000, the exchange equivalent of £773,000.

That sum was divided as follows:—

	£
Mansion House.....	543,000
Lancashire.....	131,000
Glasgow	54,000
Liverpool.....	28000
Edinburgh	17,000
Miscellaneous	2,000
	773,000

These contributions from the United Kingdom exceed those made for the famine of 1877-8 by nearly £150,000, and form indeed a signal and beneficent manifestation of national benevolence. Of the balance of foreign subscriptions, amounting to Rx. 140,000, mostly remitted in Indian currency, Canada remitted Rx. 57,000, the Australian Colonies Rx. 11,500, Ceylon Rx. 14,700, China Rx. 14,000, Russia Rx. 9,800, the Straits Settlements Rx. 6,800, Japan Rs. 5,000, and the remainder came in smaller sums from New Zealand, Natal, America, Mauritius, Fiji, and other countries, Indian emigrants to British Colonies sending numerous contributions.

The fund was divided, as subscriptions came in, amongst the distressed provinces, and the following are the sums which each received, including its own local receipts:—

	Rx.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	518 500
Central Provinces	370,000
Bengal.....	215,000
Bombay	165,000
Madras	157,500
Punjab.....	122,000
Central India	42,500
Burma.....	30,000
Berar	20,000
Baluchistan	2,000
Rajputana...	2,000
Total ...	1,644,500

Expenditure is still going on in the Madras Presidency owing to the failure of the north-east monsoon, and in Bombay, where plague has been superadded to famine, but the Central Committee expect to wind up with a balance of between Rx. 40,000 and Rx. 50,000, consisting chiefly of moneys returned by Provincial Committees which will be invested and form the nucleus of a fund against the next famine.

Over two-thirds of the fund have been spent in giving a fresh start in life to those who had lost all in the struggle, principally to peasant farmers whose bullocks had died from want of fodder, and who had neither plough-cattle nor seed, nor credit on which to procure them. The bulk of the residue was spent upon doles to pardanashin women and respectable persons or tradesmen, who were unable from social custom to work or accept Government relief accompanied as that must be by official euquiry into and by some kind of test of the reality of the destitution to be relieved, and acomparatively small amount has been devoted to supplementing the Government ration in poor-houses and on relief works, by small gifts of food and clothing, and to the maintenance of orphans. The Famine Fund has thus distributed in relief nearly one-fifth of the direct expenditure from the State, and as it has in no way displaced Government relief (which was not confined within predetermined financial bonds, but was limited only by certain tests), the Fund has been extremely valuable in softening the sharpness of distress, and it has restored to prosperity a vast number of families. Statistics shew nearly 1¼ million heads of families relieved by grants of cattle, seed and implements, nearly, million of respectable persons fed, and 1 1-4 millions of relief workers assisted, at the expense of the charitable fund, while provision has been made for the maintenance and education of about 4,000 orphans whose relatives or friends cannot be found. The Government of India contributed to the Fund by giving an officer for the duties of Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary, by a grant of Rx. 1,800 towards office expenses, and by allowing the Committee the free use of the Government Press. Numerous concessions of a similar nature have been made by Local Governments, firms and individuals, so that the total expenditure from the Fund on establishments and offices comes to less than one-half per cent.

MILITARY OPERATIONS.

29. The military operations on the North-Western Forntier, which have added so much to the expenditure of the current year, may be divided into four parts and I may state the facts in a tabular form which I admit to be better suited to a Financial Statement than to a military history:—

	I. Tochi Field Force.	II. Malakand Field Force.	III. Mohmand Field Force.	IV. Tirah Field Force.
Origin of the expedition and its date.	Attack at Maizar, 10th June.	Attack on Malakand, 26th July.	Attack on Shabkadr, 7th Aug.	Attack on Khybar Forts, 23rd Aug.
Date of formal sanction of expedition	19th June	30th July	2nd Sept.	8th Sept.
Expedition against Buner sanctioned		1st Jan.		
Field Force broksn up	18th Feb.	4th Feb.	6th Oct.	Still standing
Fighting men engaged*	7,306	10,421	10,624	32,161

* Besides 3,776 in Reserve Brigade at Rawalpindi.

30. Our estimates of the expenditure on military expeditions are, I may explain, made under three heads,—(1) Initial charges, (2) Monthly charges, and (3) Terminal charges. The second of these is necessarily somewhat problematical; we can say how much any given expedition will cost per month, but the question how many months it will last is determined only by events.

31. Our estimate of the cost of the above expeditions was made in the beginning of October, and made on the assumption that they would last till the end of December. That estimate amounted to Rx. 3,720,000. This is not the place to explain what events necessitated the prolongation of the expeditions, and chiefly of the largest one, the Tirah expedition. The result, with reference to the estimate above mentioned, is that the total expenditure on account of the monthly charges has exceeded what we anticipated, but there has been a large saving on terminal charges, only however by reason of their passing into the accounts of 1898-99. We estimate now that we shall spend Rx. 3,823,500 in 1897-98 and a further sum of Rx. 1,488,500 in 1898-99. This ast estimate has been drawn upon the supposition that there would be a spring campaign lasting hree months, followed by what I have called the terminal charges of the expedition. Although preparations continue to be made for that three month's compaign, the prospects of peace being concluded without it are, at the present time. very favourable, and if so, there will be some saving upon the expenditure now estimated for 1898-99.

LOAN OPERATIONS.

32. In the Budget Estimate for 1897-98, I announced the intention of the Government of India to raise a Rupee loan of four crorcs; but when the usual time approached for our entering the market, it became very doubtful whether it was wise to try to borrow so large an amount. The Bank rate in India remained unusually high, having been ten per cent, for the first 5 1-2 months of 1897. On June 17th it was reduced to 9 per cent, and a week later to 8 per cent.

33. The price of 3 1-2 per cent Government Paper was 99, 100, and 101 per cent during January, February, and March 1897; it rose to 104 about 20th May, and thereafter till the end of July gradually fell back to a little over par.

34. I took the opportunity of visiting Calcutta at the end of June to make enquiry into the state of matters, and I desire to convey my acknowledgments to my banking and mercantile friends for the advice they then gave me and the information they placed at my disposal. The result of my report to His Excellency in council was that the Secretary of State sanctioned our reducing the amount of the loan to Rx. 3,000,000, and in July we called for tenders for this amount to form part of our ordinary 3½ per cent loan, the time being unpropitious for a continuation of our 3 per cent loan of 1895. In the result the loan was taken up at an average rate of Rx. 98-5-3 and a minimum rate of Rx. 98-1 per cent.

35. The Secretary of State's loan transactions were as follows:—

(1) In accordance with Budget Estimate he raised permanent debt in May to the extent of £3,500,000, namely, India 2 1-2 per cent stock. This he obtained at an average price of £93-15-11.

(2) In his Budget Estimate he proposed to pay off £1,000,000 of temporary debt outstanding on March 31st, and to raise new temporary debt to the amount of £2,000,000. The suspension of drawings to which I shall presently allude compelled him to enhance this last amount to £6,000,000, which he obtained as follows:—

Date.	Amount. £	Rate of interest. £ s. d.
September 14.....	2,500,000	2 11 8
November 30.....	2,500,000	2 15 2
January 17	1,000,000	2 4 6

COUNCIL BILLS AND RATE OF EXCHANGE.

36. The rate of exchange at the close of last year when the Estimates were brought before the Council was about 15 pence, and it remained at that rate throughout April. It fell during May, and in the and of that month the Secretary of State drew at 14 5-16, pence. It then rose till the beginning of August being then above 15 pence.

37. During July we were obliged to reconsider our position as regards Ways and Means. The suspension of the rains throughout the month of June destroyed our hopes of the early closing of the Famine Relief Works, and at the same time sudden and unexpected demands for money for Famine Relief were made from Madras. In July the position became more difficult as hostile attacks by the tribes on the North-Westem Frontier made it obvious that military operations would have to be undertaken. These demands came upon us at the most difficult time of the year, so far as the supply of funds is concerned, for under ordinary circumstances our Cash Balances, even including Loan Receipts, run down throughout the five months July to November. A careful re-examination shewed that, in the face of the new demands upon us, we would be obliged to ask the Secretary of State to greatly reduce his drawings; and as the military operations became more extensive he not only stopped them altogether, but remitted back to us a crore of rupees out of the amounts he had already drawn.

38 With the aid of this crore of rupees which reached us in the beginning of October, we just managed (as we had calculated) to pass through the low-baeance period, our Cash Balances being as follows:—

	Rx.
Last day of August.....	8,504,300
September.....	7,620.000
October.....	8,079,300
November.....	8,076,400

I ought to add here a word of acknowledgment to Mr. Barrow, the officiating Comptroller General, who accomplished the extremely difficult task of meeting the demands upon the Government Treasuries throughout this period with such inadequate resources, and that at a time when they included those of a war on the frontier, and of famine relief on an extensive scale in five of the largest provinces of India. I had asked the Local Governments to instruct the District Collectors throughout India to lend their special aid in the management of the Cash Balances; and with their assistance the arrangements worked with perfect smoothness.

39. The result of the suspension of drawings was to maintain the rate of exchange at over 15½d till the middle of November, but it then began to fall through a belief, which turned out to be quite unfounded, that it could not be maintained when the Secretary of State recommenced drawing. It fell just below 15 pence in the middle of December, but as soon as the Secretary of State resumed his drawings, it became apparent that the demand had been quite under-estimated. His last drawing in December was at the rate of 15 13-16d., and the rate has since that date maintained itself at and above this rate, the average rate of the drawing of the month of January having exceeded 16d. The demand for money has recently been much greater than the supply, and the Banks' rate has risen from 5 per cent in the beginning of December to 12 per cent in the beginning of March. At one time the tension was so severe that it was deemed prudent to introduce a legislative measure, which would have the effect of enabling gold in England to be placed at the immediate disposal of trade in India. No operations have actually taken place under it, though we have received about £150,000 in gold in India, but it had the effect, which we intended, of allaying the anxiety of the market.

40. The drawings for the year necessarily fell far short of the amount estimated in the Budget, £13,000,000, and we estimate that for the whole year they will stand as follows:—

	£.	Rx.	Rate.
Council Bills	9,378,000	14,585,400	15'44d.
Less-Re remittance.....	669 400	1,000,000	16 1-16d.
Net Remittance.....	8,708,600	13,585,400	15 3-8d.

41. This rate of 15 3/8 pence (or rather Rx. 15-6 for each £ sterling) is accordingly taken as that at which the English Revenue and Expenditure are brought to account in the Revised Estimates of 1897-98. And following my usual practice of avoiding any speculations upon the future of Exchange, I adopt the same rate for the Budget Estimates of 1898-99.

BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1898-99.

42. The result of the Budget Estimates for 1898-99 is that, after providing for the full amount Rx. 1,500,000 of the Famine Grant, and also Rx. 1,488,500 for the continuance of military operations on the frontier, we have a surplus of Revenue over Expenditura of Rx. 891,400.

43. Except for this provision for possible war, there are no special features in the year's account. We do not intend to alter our revenue or the rates at which we collect it; we shall have to incur some special expenditure upon the suppression of plague, and the measures, which have been announced in England, for improving the pay of the British soldier will also involve some expenditure in India. How much this may be it is impossible, in the present inchoate state of the communications on the subject, to say, but we have thought it wise to provide in the Estimates a sum of Rx. 200,000 "on account."

44. There is therefore little to say but to explain the details of the Estimates; and the following statement shews in the usual condensed form the comparison between the Budget Estimates now presented and those of the preceding two years. I have included, for purposes of comparison, the figures of the Budget Estimates of 1896-97 as well as those of 1897-98, because the latter were in some respects peculiarly affected by the prevalence of scarcity and famine:—

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BUDGET ESTIMATES OF 1898-99 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1897-98 AND 1896-97.

	Budget. 1896-97.	Budget 1897-98.	Budget 1898-99.	1898-99 Better than 1897-98.	1898-99 Worse than 1897-98.
STERLING IN ENGLAND.					
Revenue ..... £	174,100	173,000	198,300	15,300	
Expenditure ... £	15,909,400	16,088,500	16,474,800	...	386,300
Net Exchange on above..... Rx	11,729,900	10,501,200	9,120,500	1,383,700	
	27,465,200	26,419,700	25,407,700	1,012,700	
REVENUES IN INDIA.	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
Land Revenue ...	26,093,300	25,646,200	27,568,200	1,922,000	
Opium	6,895,300	5,816,200	5,3 9,800	...	486,400
Salt.....	8,700,000	8,731,000	8,728,000	...	6,000
Other Principal Heads of Revenue	23,525,600	23,578,200	24,033,800	455,600	
Departmental Receipts (a).....	6,781,900	6,945,800	7,197,200	251,400	
Railways	21,582,800	0,68 ,100	21,8.3,300	1,1:1,200	
Irrigation.....	2,883,500	3,122,,500	3,228,100	105,600	
Military Works.	50,000	50,.0	5,, 00	300	
Army.....	803,600	814,600	8.3,000	18,400	
	97,316,800	95, 89,600	98,791,700	3,402,100	
EXPENDITURE IN INDIA.—					
Direct Demands on Revenues—					
Opium.....	2,593,900	2,651,000	2,654,400	...	
Other	8,470,700	8,520,400	8,483,900	36,500	
Interest	— 96 ,300	—961,900	-1,128,9 0	167,000	
Civil Departments	19,096,10	19,308,800	19,6 .9.800	..	321,000
Famine Relief ..	7,,0.0	3,641,200	85,100	3,556,100	
Protective Works and Reduction of Debt....	523,500	25,000	1,014,100	..	989,100
Railways.....	13,781,50	13,752,000	14,738,900	..	986,900
Irrigation.....	3,201,700	3,110,000	3,211,500	..	101,500
Military Works and Special Defences	1,254,900	1,207,000	1,135,800	71,500	
Civil Works	4,757,800	4,398,200	4,702,100	..	303,900
Army (ordinary charges)	17,480,100	16,968,900	16,625,800	343,100	
Warlike operations	...	...	1.458.000	...	1,458,000
	70,274,900	72,623,900	72.610,100	13,800	
PROVINCIAL ADJUSTMENT	—886,400	-1,190,000	—116,800	..	1,073,200
Surplus (+) Deficit (—)	+463,100	-2,464,000	+891,400	3,355,400	

(a) Including Interest and Receipt under Civil Works.

45. The principal difference in the expenditure in England is an addition of £ 171, 400 to the interest there payable, which is due to the fact that the Secretary of State has had by borrowing to make up for the short drawings of Council Bills during 1897-98 The real increase of interest chargeable upon the ordinary account of the Government is a good deal less than the amount just named, as it will be found that in the Indian portion of the accounts a considerable porton of the addition is pass d on to the charge of the Railway account.

46. In addition to this increase of English expenditure on account of interest, there are the following which may be regarded as normal increases :—

	£
Superannuation Allowances.....	41,500
Interest on Railway Companies' Capital	24,100

There is an offset of £11,100 against this on account of reduction of rate of interest.

	£
Payments to the War Office for effective and non-effective charges of British Forces.....	12,000
Other non-effective Army Charges	24,000

There is also a special provision of £38,200 on account of stores required for warlike operations on the frontier.

The other differences in the English account are comparatively small.

47. Passing to the account of Revenue in India, we first of all expect a large increase of Land Revenue. Last year's estimates were estimates of the revenue of a year of scarcity ; the present are estimates of the result of a bumper harvest, in which we expect to receive not only the revenue of the year itself, but something on account of revenue suspended during the famine—suspended, that is, in distinction to remitted. The following figures compare the expected receipts with what I gave last year as the standard of the annual Revenue as it stood in 1896-97, —a standard which has of course somewhat advanced since then ;—

	Standard of 1896 97.	Expected receipts in 1898-99.
India	150,000	150,500
Central Provinces	844,800	920,000
Burma	2,571 300	2,657,000
Assam	614,200	626,000
Bengal	3,902,100	4,087,300
North-Western Provinces	6,110,900	6.667,900
Punjab.....	2,464,000	2,614,100
Madras	5.600,000	5,856,100
Bombay	4,816,400	4.961,300
	27,073,700	28,540,200

This amount is shown thus :—

Under Land Revenue	27,568,200
,, Irrigation	972,000
Total.....	28,540,200

48. As the annual increase of the Land Revenue has on the statistics of the last ten years been 31 lakhs, the standard figure for 1898-99 may be stated at Rx. 27,600,000, and the revenue we expect is, it will be seen, Rx. 850,000 in excess of this.

The Chief advance is in the North-Westren Provinces. In that province very liberal remissions and suspensions of revenue were granted during the evil times of 1896-97; and the revenue of the two years 1896-97 and 1897-98 has fallen short of the standard figure of 1896-97 by about Rx. 1,200,000.

49. Under Opium we are unable to anticipate a revenue even equal to that of the current year 1897-98 : and the figure is therefore much less than the Budget Estimates of 1897-98.

50. Under Provincial Rates there is a considerable increase for the same reasons as explained in the case of Land Revenue.

51. Under Departmental Receipts the improvement, as compared with the Budget of 1897-98, is mainly under three heads, namely, Interest Rx. 81,200, due partly to the interest on the addition of Rx. 2,000,000 made to the Currency Reserve Investment in December 1896, and partly to the large advances and loans we made during the period of scarcity ; Post Office Rx. 65,900, Telegraph Rx. 144,400, due in both cases to expansion of business.

52. Under Famine Relief and Insurance the figures necessarily entirely differ from those of the Budget Estimates of 1897-98. We restore the Famine Grant of Rx. 1,500,000, distributing it as follows :—

	Budget, 1897-98.	Budget, 1898-99.
Famine Relief	3,641,200	85,100
Famine Insurance	..	325,800
Protective Railways	..	669,300
Protective Irrigation	25,000	20,000
Add Interest on Indian Midland & Bengal-Nagpur Railways under State Railways.	456,500	400,800
Total.....	4,122,700	1,500,000

The expenditure in the second line is the amount available for famine insurance after meeting the prior claims on the grant and the portion of the Railway construction expenditure charged against it.

53. The difference under Railways it will be convenient to explain along with the difference under the same head on the Expenditure side, and the remaining heads require no remarks.

54. On the Expenditure side the first difference calling for notice is under "Interest," and this has as mentioned above, to be considered along with the same entry in the English part of the accounts. The English estimates provide, as already stated, for an additional interest charge of £171,400, say Rx. 267,000 ; but as in our Indian accounts there is an additional transfer of Rx. 167,000 from the ordinary account of Interest to the Railway and Irrigation accounts, the net burden of interest is enhanced by only Rx. 100,000.

55. The principal portions of the increase under Civil Departments (Rx. 321,000), Medical Rx. 149,800, due to provision for plague expenditure which, though not sufficiently provided for in the Estimates of 1897-98, had nevertheless to be incurred ; and Superannuations Rx. 46,200, a continually increasing charge.

56. The statistics of the Revenue and Expenditure of Railways in India may conveniently be thus stated :—

	Budget, 1897-98.	Revised, 1897-98.	Budget, 1898-99.
STATE RAILWAYS—			
Gross Earnings.....	18,023,400	18,994,700	19,382,600
Working Expenses	9,027,300	9,29 ,100	9,770,500
Net Earnings.....	8,996,100	9,695,600	9,612,100
Interest Charges	4,089,600	4,089,200	4,319,800
Net Return.....	4,905,500	5,606,400	5,292,300
GUARANTEED RAILWAY—			
Gross Earnings... ..	5.740.000	5,360,000	5,690,0 0
Working Expenses	3,110,000	3,200,000	3 266,000
Net Earnings.....	2,630,000	2,160,000	2,424,000
Payment of Profits and Interest	310,200	154,600	321,600
Net Return ...	2,319.800	2.005,400	2,102,400
Land and Miscellaneous Charges	296,200	134,400	310,300
Net on the whole account	6,930,100	7.477,400	7,084,400

Under State Railways it is mainly on the following lines that the traffic is expected to be better in 1898-99 than it has been in 1897-98 :—

	Budget, 1897-98.	Revised, 1897-98.	Budget, 1898-99.
Rajputana-Malwa	2,250 000	1,960,000	2,200,000
Bengal Nagpur.....	650,000	590,000	680,000
Bengal North-Western..	620,000	620,000	675 000
Oudh and Rohilkhand ...	880,000	900,000	1,000,000

Provision is made for larger working expenses corresponding to the increasing traffic and for special renewals of permanent-way and rolling-stock.

Under Guaranteed Railways, the Great Indian Peninsula and the Bombay, Baroda and Central India are both expected to recover from the low figures of the current year.

57. The Army expenditure in India, excluding the account of military operations, is estimated at Rx. 343,100 less than the Budget for 1897-98. The better exchange brings a saving of Rx. 228,500 and the fall in prices Rx. 272,600. There is also less provision for ordnance stores to the extent of Rx. 31,200, and a further deduction is made in India of Rx. 64,900 for certain demands provided for in the English Estimates, but not now required. Against these savings, of which the total is Rx. 597,000, we have to provide for an increase of Rx. 27,400, the addition being larger than usual owing to the grant of extra pensions in consequence of the military operations of the year, and Rx. 11,500 for providing medals. We have also, as already mentioned, provided Rx. 200,000 for possible improvements in the British soldiers' pay. No other differences are large enough to require special mention.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

58. I referred last year to a systematic programme of Railway construction which had been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. It amounted to 28 crores (afterwards extended to 29 2-3 crores), and was intended to last over three years, 1896-97 to 1898-99. I divided it, for convenience sake with reference to our accounts, into four categories, namely ;—

First.—State Railway Construction ; money found by Government, but also by debentures in the case of the East Indian and Assam-Bengal Railway Companies.

Second.—Construction by Companies, out of funds raised by them or advanced by Government to them (including a small advance for a Native State Railway).

Third.—Construction by Companies outside the accounts of the Government, and also construction by Branch Line Companies.

Fourth.—New construction by the old Guaranteed Companies.

59. The programme of 29 2-3 crores did not include the Railways of the third category, and no arrangements had yet been made for any construction under the fourth category. The estimate for expenditure under the first and second categories, that is, the expenditure falling within the "programme" during 1897-98, came to Rx. 10,130 000. But the revision of Ways and Means imposed upon us by the difficulties which began in June and July, alluded to in paragraph 37 above, compelled us to reduce the amount by one crore, and it stood therefore at Rx. 9,130,000. For similar reasons the Government of India have thought it advisable to curtail the intended expenditure of 1898-99, as the strain through which the country has passed during the past two years, renders it inadvisable to raise money at the rate which was contemplated before the Famine and the Frontier war were within our calculations. The expenditure for 1898-99 was, therefore, at first fixed at Rx. 10,121,300 ; but as for various reasons, including the engineering strike in England, even the Rx. 9.130 000 will not be worked up to in 1897-98, these two amounts are now redistributed between the two years, and thus the estimates now stand at Rx. 8,414,400 for 1897-98 and Rx. 10,836,900 for 1898-99.

60. The details are as follows :—

	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Budget Estimate, 1898-99.
First Category—		
Funds available by Famine Grant.....	.....	668,300
Grant under—		
48.—State Railway Construction.....	3,903,400	4,951,300
50.—Miscellaneous Public Improvements (a).....	8,400	48,000
East Indian Railway Company's Debentures.....	980,700	944,300
Assam-Bengal Company's Capital and Debentures	498,200	.....
Total.....	5,390,700	6,611,900
Second Category.....	3,007,400	3,475,000
Fourth Category	16,300	750,000
Total "Programme"	8,414,400	10,836,900
Add—Third category.....	2,160,200	2,360,700
Total.....	10,574,600	13,197,600

a Chittagong Port Works in connection with the Assam-Bengal Railway.

61. The following are the principal entries under the first category ;—

	Revised, 1897-98.	Budget. 1898-99.
East Indian	1,200,000	1,626,500
Assam-Bengal	1,209,400	1,152,000
Bezvada-Madras.....	696,600	634,400
Rae Bareli-Benares.....	442,500	30,000
Mari-Attock	264,900	150,000
Southern Punjab Rolling-stock.	228,000	216,500
Hajipur-Katihar	500,000	500,000
Godavery Bridge	138,700	210,000
Eastern Bengal	393,300	411,700
Other Lines	317,300	952,600
Reserve.....	.....	728,200
Total.....	5,390,700	6,611,900

62. The principal items in the second category are :—

	Revised, 1897-98.	Budget. 1898-99.
Bengal-Nagpur	1,940,000	2,070,000
Indian Midland	291,100	200,000
Burma Railways	551,600	1,000,000
Bengal Central	67,900	40,000
Lucknow-Bareilly	44,800	15,000
Southern Maharatta	74 300	115,000
Mysore	17,700	35,000
Advance for Native State Railway (Kuch Behar)	20,000	.....
Total.....	3,007,400	3,475,000

63. The principal projects classed under the third category are :—

	Revised, 1897-98.	Budget, 1898-99.
Southern Punjab.....	509,100	200,400
Bengal and N-W Railway Extensions	7.6,700	620,400
Tapti Valley	235,000	810,000
South Behar	276 000	250,000
Hardwar-Dehra	38,000	174,500
Smaller Branch Lines	375,400	305 400
Total.....	2,160,200	2,360,700

64. The estimate under the fourth category provides mainly for the Calicut-Cannanore, Amainer-Jalgaon, and Chalisgaon-Dhulia Railways.

IRRIGATION.

65. The usual annual amount of Rx. 750,000 is provided for expenditure on Irrigation in 1898-99. The similar grant for 1897-98 has not been fully worked up to, owing chiefly to certain recoveries and writes-back not provided for in the Budget.

The pricipal works under this head are at present—

	Revised, 1897-98.	Budget. 1898-99.
Mandalay Canal	63,100	110,000
Fatehpur Branch of the Lower Ganges Canal.....	95,700	71,100
Chenab Canal	215,400	193,300
Jhelum Canal	5.800	50,000
Kistna Delta System.....	38,600	19,800
Jamrao Canal	127,900	134,400
Other Projects	146,300	171,400
Total.....	692,800	750,000

REMITTANCE AND DEBT.

66. The following account shews in a shortened form the requirements of the Secretary of State ; the figures are drawn up so as to shew separately the transactions on account of Government, and the transactions arising out of the operations of Railway Companies :—

	Revised, 1897-98. £	Budget, 1898-99. £
Requirements on Government Account—		
Excess of expenditure on Revenue Account	16,099,000	16,286,500
Expenditure not charged to Revenue ..	834,600	1,119,900
Net payments on Remittance Accounts, etc.	187,700	191,300
Total Requriements	17,121,300	17,597,700
Transactions of Railway Companies—		
Net receipts on account of Capital.....	1,170,300	1,6 6,000
Payments for Stores, etc.	1,919,000	2,619,000
Net Outgoings.....	748,700	943,000
Net Funds required	17,870,000	18,540,700

67. The following figures shew the manner in which the above requirements have been or are to be financed :—

	Revised. 1897-98. £	Budget. 1898-99. £
By Council Bills (net Remittance)	8,708,600	16,000.000
By addition to Permanent Debt.....	3,497,300	2,615,300
By addition to Temporary Debt.....	5,000,000	Nil.
By reduction of Cash Balance.....	664,100	...
Deduct—Addition to Cash Balance	...	74,600
	17,870,000	18,540,700

It will be seen that the Secretary of State opens the year with outstandings of temporary debt to the extent of £5,000,000, and this he intends to renew. Under the head of Permanent Debt he intends to discharge India Debentures to the extent of £3,000,000 and Oudh and Rohilkhand Debenture Stock to the extent of £384,700, giving a total of £3,384,700. For the discharge of this amount, and for generally supplementing his resources, he intends to raise permanent debt to the extent of £6,000,000. His further requirements will be met by drawing Council Bills to the extent of £16,000,000.

68. We propose in India to raise a Rupee Loan of Rx. 3,000,000.

69. These announcements of the amounts of Council Bill drawings and of debt to be raised are made with the usual reservation of entire liberty to the Secretary of State to vary the amounts as he may find occasion.

CURRENCY POLICY.

70. I regret that I am not in a position to make any further pronouncement on this subject on the part of the Government. Since the date, January 14th, on which I informed the Council that the matter was having the anxious consideration of the Government of India, we have communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State our views on the present posi

tion. We are now also sending home to him a copy of the Honourable Mr. Arthur's address to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and of an important communication we have received from the Bombay Chamber. We are confident that Her Majesty's Government will give the subject their early attention.

REVIEW OF TWENTY YEARS' FINANCE.

71. I conclude my statement with a short review of twenty years of Indian finance, 1878 to 1898.

72. Twenty years ago the experience of a severe famine in Northern India, followed after a short interval by another in Southern India, brought home to us the effect upon our finances of such periodically recurring disasters, and obliged us to lay down a financial policy intended to have the effect of increasing our capacity for dealing with similar calamities in the future. We have now passed through another and a severer famine, and it will be useful to look back over this period and to see whether our financial policy has, as a whole, been successful, and whether, taking the twenty years together, a period covering both the financial preparation for, and the actual experience of, disaster, we have paid our way and can give a good account of what financially we have accomplished. These twenty years include, it must be remembered, the war in Afghanistan, the annexation of Upper Burma, and the recent wars in Chitral and on our North-Western Frontiers. They include the outlay entailed by a programme of expenditure on 'special defences' which began in 1885-87 and is only now being closed; and they include the large increase of the army effected after the occupation of Upper Burma.

73. I present the following statement in a compressed form, which includes every transaction which during the period in question has passed through our accounts. I think the form is as devoid of technicalities as a statement of so complicated and comprehensive a subject can be, and is such as to be easily followed. I summarize the result as follows:—

General Statement of the Transactions of the Government of India in England and in India for the twenty years ending March 31, 1898.

Receipts. In England.	Receipts. In India.		Outgoings. In England.	Outgoings. In India.
£ Shewn as Rx in India.	Rx 50,988,294	**REVENUE ACCOUNT. Stated in Rx.** I.—Excess of Revenue over Ordinary Expenditure	£ Shewn as Rx. in India.	Rx
		II.—Extraordinary Expenditure on War, Famine Relief, and Railway Construction		47,611,433
		Details—		Rx.
		a Wars and Expeditions, each costing over Rx 600,000 (net)		21,223,424
		b Famine Relief, excluding years in which expenditure did not exceed Rx 25,000		8,188,478
		c Railway Construction charged to Revenue		13,659,867
		d Special Defence Works		4,589,664
		III.—Charge to Revenue and credited per contra for Reduction of Debt (see head VIII)		5,327,299
		ACCOUNT OF BORROWING, LENDING AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.		
64,243,582	48,815,586	IV.—Borrowing by Government—		
		Details—	£	Rx.
		a Permanent Debt	58,243,582	37,722,429
		b Temporary Debt	6,000,000	—37,222
		c Savings Banks	.....	8,632,573
		d Service Funds, etc	.....	2,497,806
	2,688,099	V.—Capital Outlay of Government not charged to Revenue	52,991,292	53,528,708
		Details—	£	Rx.
		a Railway Construction	17,572,816	41,479,959
Rx. 2,688,099		*b* Credit on account of Debentures of East Indian Railway Company (£1,542,500).		
		c Irrigation Works	1,875,700	12,038,074
		d Purchase of East Indian Railway and other Companies' Undertakings	33,542,776	10,675
		VI.—Loans at interest to Municipalities, Port Trusts, Cultivators etc.		16,473,480
	11,211,096	Repayments of the same.		
		VII.—Capital raised and expended by Companies under Contract with Government.		
		Net Receipts on account of Capital raised.		
31,647,425	1,527,904	Net Issues for Expenditure	28,869,077	17,237,677
Details— England.	India.	Sterling Figures.	England.	India.
4,542,257	110	*a* Companies now extinct	5,039,370	—211,406
5,649,953	74,371	*b* Guaranteed Companies	13,803,324	—8,557,202
21,455,215	169,331	*c* Assisted Companies	10,0 6,383	19,557,758
31,647,425	243 812	Total Sterling	28,869,077	10,789,150
...	87,292	Exchange on ditto	...	5,350,382
..	1,196,800	*d* Branch Line Companies	...	1,098,145
		The overdrawals of the Assisted Companies were provided for by raising £6,734,900 permanent debt (included under head IV (*a*) and passing the amount to their credit.		
		DEPOSIT AND ADVANCE ACCOUNTS.		
		VIII—Appropriation for Reduction of Debt. Credited by charge to Revenue (see above).		
	{5,327,299	Purchase and cancellation of debt		1,991,529
	115,171	IX—Suspense Account of Balances of Provincial Governments.		
147,405	1,892,328	X—Net receipts on account of Deposits, Advances & Local Remittances.		
		XI—Net debits in remittance account between England and India		567,544
		BALANCES.		
	13,086,446	XII—Adjustment on account of Remittances to England, being short of Home Expenditure	13,086,446	
	9,309,497	XIII—Adjustment on account of charge for Exchange.		
		XIV—Cash Balances in England and in India—		
1,076,657	14,498,302	On April 1, 1878.	2,168,254	16,722,352
		On March 31, 1898		
97,115,089	159,460,022	GRAND TOTALS	97,115,089	159,460,022

74. Taking first the Revenue Account, and reckoning as ordinary expenditure everything except the cost of our large wars, of the 'special defences' just alluded to, of actual famine relief, and of Railway construction so far as met out of revenue, the result is that our revenue has exceeded our ordinary expenditure by Rx. 50,988,294. Distributed into four quinquennial periods this figure is made up as follows:—

1878—83	22,294,539
1883—88	5,513,331
1888—93	13,472,520
1893—98	9,707,904
Total	50,988,294

75. Of this excess of revenue, we have spent Rx. 21,223,424 on War (our smaller military expeditions are not included in this term, but are taken as ordinary expenditure); we have spent Rx. 4,589,664 on special defence works; we have spent Rx. 8,138,478 upon Famine Relief, and we have spent Rx. 13,659,867 upon Railway construction. The balance of Rx. 3,376,861 remains over, to the good, on the whole account. We have, in the twenty years, by this amount more than paid our way.

76. On our borrowing an investment account we have raised debt to the extent of £65,786,082 sterling (including £1,542,500 East Indian Railway Debentures) and Rx. 48,815,586. This is mostly increase of permanent debt, but it includes Rx. 8,632,573 obtained by extending the advantages of Savings Banks all over India. Of this large sum, it will be seen, we have spent £19,448,516 and Rx. 53,518,033 mostly on the construction of Railways, but partly also on Major Irrigation works (Minor Irrigation works are paid for from Revenue); we have used £33,542,776 and Rx. 10,675 to buy up the undertakings of the East Indian Railway and other similar Companies, as they fell in under the purchase clauses of their contracts. We have lent Rx. 16,473,480 to Port Trusts for the construction of Docks and Harbour works at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and elsewhere, to Municipalities for expenditure on projects of water-supply and drainage, and to cultivators for promotion of agriculture. But as Rx. 11,211,096 has, during the same time, been repaid to us by our debtors, the net burden upon us in respect of these lendings has been only Rx. 5,262,384.

77. A further sum of £6,734,900, included in our borrowings, has been placed at the disposal of Railway Companies for expenditure on Railway construction under their contracts with us.

78. Passing to the accounts of these Railway Companies, we find that, in addition to the sum of £6,734,900 just mentioned as lent to them by us, they have raised, either under our guarantee or under pledges of assistance from us capital to the extent of £31,647,425 sterling plus Rx. 1,527,904. Their capital expenditure, during the twenty years amounts in sterling or its equivalent to £39,658,227 besides Rx. 1,038,145 on account of Branch Line Companies.

79. As to the effect on our revenues of all this expenditure on Railway Construction, it may be stated in this way. At the beginning of the twenty years' period the annual loss on Railways after meeting all interest charges was about Rx. 1,500,000, whereas it is now, except in good years, nearly Rx. 2,000,000. This is an apparent loss of Rx. 500,000 a year; but it has to be remembered that by reason of depreciation of the rupee, it requires now more than Rx. 1,000,000 sterling earnings to pay the interest charge on the sterling capital as it stood in 1878; so that our Railway Revenue account has, by the expenditure of the twenty years, so far improved that it not only provides the whole of the interest charge which that expenditure has imposed, but meets in addition thereto Rx. 500,000 of the burden which the fall of the rupee has intermediately added in respect of the capital as it stood in 1878.

80. Stated shortly therefore the result of twenty year's finance is this. So far as Revenue goes we have, even after charging off Rx. 13,660,000 spent from Revenue account on Railway construction, more than paid our way, including all expenditure on war, special defences and famine. So far as capital transactions go, we have raised under various conditions and spent upon Railways, Irrigation, Harbour Works and Docks, Municipal projects, and Agricultural Improvements a sum equal (at 16 pence the rupee) to Rx. 198,820,000; and we are by reason of this expenditure better off by Rx. 500,000 a year than if we had never undertaken it. I am dealing, it must be remembered, with direct financial returns only; the effect of all this expenditure on development of Revenue and its economic and administrative aspects lie outside my present purposes. As mere episodes in these transactions, we have spread Savings Banks and Money Order offices over the country; we have received in the former a net sum of Rx. 8,630 000 in deposit, and we carry out remittances in the latter to an annual extent of about Rx. 25,000,000.

81. One of my objects in setting out this general review of our finances is to point out how little occasion there is for seeking assistance from Her Magesty's Government in aid of our revenue account. This course has been suggested in many quarters, both in England and in this country, but the Government of India have never wavered from the position taken up by Sir John Strachey in his Financial Statement for 1880-81, from which I quote the following paragraph:—

43. I can imagine few greater misfortunes to India than the loss of her financial independence, and the acceptance by England of financial responsibility for her Indian Empire. It would signify to India the loss of control over her own affairs in every department of her administration, the possible subordination of her interests to those of a foreign country, and the substitution of ignorance for knowledge in her Government. Although some rare instances may be quoted in which, when there seemed to be a conflict between English and Indian interests, it may perhaps be doubted whether India has been treated with perfect fairness, there can be no question that, on the whole, the Government of India has been carried on with as honest and thorough a regard for Indian interests as if India had a separate national existence of her own. England may rightly be proud of the way in which she has treated her great dependency. These fortunate results have, however, been due not only to her justice, but also to the wisdom with which she has left to India a separate financial responsibility. England has felt that it would be no kindness to take upon herself burdens which India now bears, to guarantee Indian debts, pay for Indian wars, and relieve Indian famines. England has also felt that it was wise, in her own true interest, to refuse to take into her own hands the control of the £67,000,000 which now constitutes the revenue of India. England does not choose that there should be grounds for even a suspicion in regard to the purity of her motives. I say this in the belief that India has before her a future of increasing wealth and prosperity; but if this anticipation should not be verified, and her future should be one of financial embarassment, the loss of her financial independence would bring with it other misfortunes. I trust that the people of England may never find cause for believing that the maintenance of their Indian Empire means the imposition of heavy burdens on themselves.

82. The record of twenty years' finance which I have displayed in the above figures is a better one than can be shewn by almost any country in the world but the United Kingdom. As Sir J. Strachey said, we ask for no charity from England. As a mere matter of our financial credit, we consider it infinitely more profitable to us to shew that we are able with our own resources to rise from our accumulated misfortunes of last year to new energy and new prosperity, than to present ourselves before England as a poor relation seeking help out of her abundant wealth. We have every prospect, as the Budget Estimates for next year have shewn, of wiping out, within a single year, so far as our financial condition is concerned, the evil effects of the year of calamities through which we have just passed.

APPENDED MINUTES.

83. The Honourable Major-General Sir Edwin Collen and the Honourable Sir Arthur Trevor append to the Financial Statement separate Minutes, dealing respectively with the subjects of Military Expenditure and of Railway Extension.

(The details of the accounts and estimates are then given after which the statement proceeds to discuss.)

WAYS AND MEANS.

HOME TREASURY.

186. The Budget and Revised Estimates for 1897-98 and the Budget Estimate for 1898-99 of the transactions of the Home Treasury are as follows:—

Receipts.	Budget, 1897-98. £	Revised, 1897-98. £	Budget, 1898-99. £
Council Bills	13,000 000	9,378,000	16,000,000
Permanent Debt incurred	3,500,000	3,500,000	6,000,000
Temporary Debt incurred	2,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
Capital Receipts from Railway Companies—			
for discharge of debt	2,441,400	24,100	1,491,600
„ expenditure	2,053,000	1,170,300	1,676,000
Deposits and Advances, net	1,400	200	...
Add—Opening Balance	2,814,698	2,832,354	2,168,254
Total	25,810,498	22,904,954	33,335,854
Outgoings.			
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue	15,915,500	16,099,000	16,286,500
Expenditure not charged to Revenue	1,083,100	834,600	1,119,900
Permanent Debt discharged	...	2,700	3,384,700
Temporary Debt „	1,000,000	1,000,000	6,000,000
Issues to Railway Companies on Capital Account—			
for discharge of debt	2,441,400	24,100	1,491,600
„ expenditure	2,370,700	1,802,800	2,316,500
Remittances from India, net—			
(*a*) Railway Companies' Remittances	500,500	316,200	382,500
(*b*) Family and other Remittances	228,000	187,000	193,300
(*c*) Purchase of Drafts on India	...	669,400	...
Add—Closing Balance	2,271,298	2,168,254	2,362,854
Total	25,810,498	22,904,954	33,335,854

1897-98.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

187. The Budget Estimate of Sterling Ways and Means was seriously affected by the events in India which rendered necessary the temporary suspension of the sale of Council Bills and the purchase of drafts on India by the Secretary of State. In the early months of the year the Revenue in India fell below the anticipations of last March; the delay in the establishment of the monsoon and the other causes mentioned in paragraphs 91 and 108 largely increased the expenditure on famine relief; and the occurrences on the North-Western Frontier necessitated field operations on a considerable scale. These unforeseen demands were beyond the power of the Indian cash balances to meet without a diminution in other demands on them. The Secretary of State decided to give the necessary help by the suspension

f the sales of Council Bills, and this suspension waso announced on the 21st of September for not less than ten weeks from the 8th of September 1897. The Secretary of State at the same time remitted to India a crore of rupees by means of bank drafts. The suspension of Council Bills was continued for a further period of 4 weeks, and the sale was resumed on December 15, after a total intermission of 14 weeks. It is now estimated that the total drawings of the Secretary of State in 1897-98 will be £9,378,000 against £13,000,000 entered in the Budget Estimate. The purchase of the drafts on India for one crore cost £669,400, making a net deficiency in the estimate of drawings upon India of £4,291,400. This deficiency is met chiefly by temporary loans to the extent of a net sum of £4,000,000. There are other differences from estimates in the transactions of the year, but these require no special notice here.

1897-98.—STERLING LOANS.

188. In accordance with the intention announced in paragraph 206 of the last Financial Statement, India Stock for £3,500,000 was issued in May 1897. The new stock was issued at 2 1-2 per cent: the state of the money market was not favourable at the time, and the loan was raised at a discount of £3 4s. 1d. per cent. The total amount tendered was £13,779,800 and the minimum rate of accepted tenders was £96 13s.

1897-98.—TEMPORARY DEBT.

189. In March last it was the intention to raise £2,000,000 in 1897-98 by means of India Bills, of which the sum of £1,000,000 was required to replace a like amount of Bills issued in the year 1893-97; but in consequence of the aid given to the Indian cash balances, it has been necessary to incur sterling debt in excess of the Budget Estimate to the extent of £4,000,000. India Bills have consequently been issued for £6,000,000 instead of for the £2,000,000 entered in the Budget Estimate. Of these, £2,500,000 were issued for 12 months on the 18th of September 1897, £2,500,000 for 6 months on the 3rd of December 1897 and £1,000,000 for six months on the 23rd of January 1898. The results of the several temporary loans have been as follows:—

Month of issue.	Amount tendered. £	Amount accepted. £	Average rate of interest pr. ct. per annum. £ s. d.
September 1897 ..	7,180,000	2,500,000	2 11 8
December	12,330,000	2,500,000	2 15 2
January 1898 ...	9,770,000	1,000,000	2 4 5

CAPITAL OF RAILWAY COMPANIES.

190. The net issues to Railway Companies during 1897-98 were taken in theBudget Estimates at £317,700; it is now estimated that they will amount to £432,500. The following are the usual details:—

RECEIPTS.

	Budget. £	Revised. £
Subscribed capital—		
(a) State Lines.....	1,950,000	992,500
(b) Guaranteed Lines	2,541,400	198,000
Miscellaneous	3,000	3,900
Total.....	4,494,400	1,194,400
ISSUES.		
For discharge of debentures—		
(a) State Railways	1,000,000	12,500
(b) Guaranteed Lines	1,441,400	11,600
For Stores, Establishment Charges, etc.—		
(a) State Railways.....	1,169,500	837,900
(b) Guaranteed Lines	1,201,200	764,900
Total.....	4,812,100	1,626,900

RAILWAY COMPANIES REMITTANCES.

191. The large descrease in the amounts of new capital is due chiefly to the fact that Railway Companies' debentures were renewed instead of being replaced by fresh capital. Most of the Companies required for stores, establishment charges, etc., much less than was estimated at the beginning of the year, but the new funds raised were on the whole still less, and in the net result £114,800 more are likely to be paid in the year than originally estimated.

192. The following are the details of remittance transactions of Railway Companies working State lines in India to which advances of funds are made in England for the purchase of stores, etc., against recoveries in India by debit to the Revenue Account:—

	Budget. £	Revied £
Advances for purchase of Stores—		
East Indian Railway	600,000	640,400
Rajputana-Malwa...	40,000	40,700
South Indian Railway	71,000	38,800
Bengal and North-Western Railway...	192,000	192,200
	903,000	912,100
East Indian Railway Debentures ..	400,000	592,500
Transfer Fees, etc.	2,500	3,400
	402,500	595,900
Net Remittance from India	500,500	316,200

The Total advances are not expected to vary materially from the Budget Estimate. The East Indian Railway Company during the year will issue a larger amount of debentures than intended.

FAMILY AND OTHER REMITTANCES.

193. The reduction in the net payments on account of family and other remittances of £40,100 is the result of a number of large differences. There is an increase in the recepts of £24,000 owing to the recovery from Her Majestey's Imperial Government of expenses and payments connected with the Suakin and Mombassa Expeditions, and £38,000 more are expected to be paid in England in repayment of advances made in India on account of emigration of coolies and other Imperial services. Against these larger receipts there is an increase in the payments for stores chargeable to Provincial and Local Funds and Native States in India of £129,900, while there are decreases of £108,000 in the net provision for payments in England on account of family remittances, remitances by the Administator General, etc. and other miscellaneous remittances from India.

1898-99, HOME TREASURY, WAYS AND MEANS.

194. The net disbursements at the Home Treasury in 1898-99 excluding Loans and Council Bills, are estimated at £18,540,700. Under ordinary circumstances this amount should be realised by the ssle of Council Bills. But owing to the heavy expenditure on Railways which is contemplated in India in 1898-99, it will not be possible for the Government of India to supply by means of Council Bills more than about £16,000,000, and this amount has accordingly been entered in the Estimates as the probable drawings of the Secretary of State. It is proposed to provide the balance of the estimated disbursements by the issue of India Stock.

Notice has been given by the Secrtary of State for the discharge of £384,700, Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway 4 per cent. Debentures, on the 6th of May next, and £3,000,000, India Debentures bearing interest at 3 1-4 per cent. will expire on August 16, 1898. In order to discharge this amount of debt, and to meet the portion of the net disbursements not covered by the sales of Council Bills, the Secretary of State proposes ro issue £6,000,000 of India Stock in 1898-99. It is also proposed to replace £6,000,000 India Bills, falling due in 1898-99 by a like amount of Bills raised in the year.

According to the programme now announced, the net disbursements of the Home Treasury will be met, in the year 1898-99, by the sale of Bills on India o £16,000,000 and by a net addition to the permanent debt of £2,615, 300.

195. It should be understood that in stating the present intentions of the Secretary of State no sort of pledge is given that he will adhere to the programme

WAYS AND MEANS IN INDIA.

193. The following is a summary of the Estimate of Ways and Means in India:—

	1897-98 Budget.	1897-98 Revised.	1898-99 Budget.
Receipts.			
1. Excess of Revenue in India over the Expenditure charged against it	Rx. 23,955,700	Rx. 19,831,400	Rx. 26,298,400
2. Rupee loan	4,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
3. Increase of the Unfunded Debt, mostly Savings Bank deposits, net	502,400	—363,700	538,800
4. Other items, net	21,700	—472,000	—86,700
5. *For Remittance to Secretary of State, net—*			
(a) Railway Companies' Remittances	500,500	316,200	302,500
(b) Other Remittances.....	213,000	182,200	244,300
(c) Remittance by drafts..	...	669,400	...
Do. Exchange	...	330,600	...
Add—Opening Balance ..	13,465,810	13,873,752	16,722,352
Total....	42,659,110	37,367,852	47,019,652
Outgoings.			
6. ExcessExpenditureCharged to provincial Balances	1,190,000	705,700	116,800
7. Expenditure not charged to Revenue	4,790,600	3,302,600	4,002,300
8. Rupee debt discharged..	575,100	429,500	325,000
9. Loans to Municipalities, etc., net	245,400	631,700	—62,200
10. *Issues on Capital Account to Railway Companies, net*	9,56,300	941,500	1,468,800
11. Council Bills—*Sterling Amount*....	13,025,300	9,385,200	16,014,500
12. Do. Exchange.....	8,564,700	5,249,300	8,945,500
Add—Closing Balance ..	13,321,710	16,722,352	16,208,952
Total.....	42,659,110	37,367,852	47,019,652

The headings in italics are connected with,and explained by the corresponding figures of the Secretary of State's account in England. The others refer te purely Indian transactions.

1897-98.—GENRAL SUMMARY.

197. In accordance with the usual practice, the Estimate of Ways and Means of the Government of India for 1897-98 placed at the disposal of the Secretary of State the whole of the estimated excess of Treasury receipts up to December 1897. In the earlier months of the financial year the Revenue fell below the anticipations of the Budget Estimate, larger expenditure on famine relief and larger loans to cultivators in famine-stricken districts became necessary; and the disturbances on the North-Western Frontier involved us in a considerable war expenditure. It was also decided in view of the state of the money market to reduce the amount of the rupee loan from Rx. 4,000,000 to Rx. 3,000,000. The steps taken to meet the deficiency in cash balances to which these causes gave rise were, first, the reduction of the expenditure on Railway Construction by Rx. 1,000,000 second, the postponement till January 1898 of all other expenditure which could be postponed: third, the stoppage of the sale of Council Bills for 14 weeks from September 8 to December 15; and, fourth, the remittance by the Secretary of State to India of one crore of rupees by means of Bank drafts.

The excess of Revenue in India over the Expenditure charged against it is expected to be less than the amount taken in the Budget Estimate by Rx. 4,124,300 the Savings Bank transactions are expected to cause a net withdrawal from the Treasury of Rx. 400,500; instead of a net receipt of Rx. 428,000 entered in the Budget Estimate, the amount of the public loan was reduced by Rx. 1,000,000, and the net amount of loans to Municipalities etc. will exceed that estimate by Rx. 386,300. The total diminution of the cash balances under the three heads mentioned thus amounts to Rx. 6,339,100. As a set-off against this large deficiency the payments of Council Bills will be Rx. 6,945,500 less than the Budget Estimate, Rx. 1,000,000 was received by remittance from England, and the reduction in expenditure not charged to Revenue will be Rx. 1,488.000. The year is now expected to close with a cash balance of Rx. 16,722,352, being in excess of the Budget Estimate by Rx. 3,400,642.

1898-99.—MAIN FEATURES.

198. As the Revenue Account for 1898-99 now made up closes with a surplus, it is necessary for the Government of India to provide only for the Capital Expenditure of the year not charged to Revenues by means of new loans. The total estimate of Capital Expenditure not charged to Revenue amounts to Rx. 5,749,300. In addition to this we have undertaken to advance in 1898-99 Rx. 1,374,600 to the Indian Midland and Bengal-Nagpur Railway Companies for expenditure on new extensions. The total of the Government outlay and advances to Companies abovementioned amounts to Rx. 7,123,900. This demand we propose to meet by a new rupee loan of Rx. 3,000,000, a net addition to the permanent debt in England of £2,615,300, and a small reduction in the Indian cash balances.

RUPEE LOAN OF 1897-98.

199. It was announced in paragraph 214 of the last Financial Statement that a new loan of Rx. 4,000,000 would be raised in India in 1898-99. But in the current year the available amount of loanable Capital in the Indian market was comparatively small. It was accordingly decided to issue a loan of Rx. 3,000,000 only at 3½ per cent per annum. After the successful conversion in 1896-97 of the unguaranteed 3½ per cent loans into 3 per cents, the Government had intended to raise its future rupee loans at 3 per cent; but in view of the peculiar circumstances of the current year, it was decided to raise the loan of the year at 3½ per cent.

The loan of the current year was issued on July 19, 1897, and tenders for it were received on August 16. The unfavourable state of the money market at the time affected the result, and the loan was raised at a discount of Rx. 98-5-3 per cent.

NEW RUPEE LOAN.

200. It is the present intention of the Government of India to raise a new rupee loan in India of Rx.3,000,000 in 1898-99, but this announcement is made with the usual reservation, and full liberty is reserved as usual, to alter the programme, as now announced, to any extent that may be considered desirable.

SAVINGS BANKS, ETC.

The following table gives the details of the transaction of Savings Banks during the last few years and the estimated transactions for 1896-97 and 1897-98:—

YEAR.		Net additions to deposits, cash.	Interest.	Total addition.
1889-90	—	—362,900	272,200	—90,700
1890-91	..	275,700	279,700	530,400
1891-92	...	517,900	306,200	824,100
1892-93	...	548 900	339,400	888,300
1893-94	...	179,900	368,000	547,900
1894-95	...	—84,500	297,000	212,500
1895-96	...	247,700	338,500	586,200
1896-97	...	—581,100	346,600	—234,500
1897-98, Budget	...	78,000	350,000	428,000
1897-98, Revised	..	—727,800	327,300	—400,500
1898-99, Budget	...	156,700	327,500	484,200

The year 1897-98 has been another year of heavy withdrawals of Savings Bank deposits. As in the year 1896-97, the withdrawals are attributable directly to the high price of food-grains and the prevalence of distress. The Budget Estimate of 1898-99 allows for a comparatively small addition to the net deposits, and with the return of normal conditions and general prosperity the result is likely to be much better than the estimate.

LOANS BY GOVERNMENT.

201. The net issues on account of loans by the Government to Municipalities, etc., in 1897-98 are now expected to be Rx. 631,700 against Rx. 245,400 entered in the Budget Estimate—an increase of Rx. 386,300. This increase is the difference between the increases in the gross advances of Rx. 691,300 and in the recoveries of Rx. 305,000. Nearly the whole of the increase in gross advances represents additional loans to agriculturists and others in districts affected by famine and scarcity. According to the Budget Estimates of 1898-99, the loan transactions of the year will result in a net receipt of Rx. 62,200 instead of a net issue as in past years. This result is not due to any extensive curtailment of the loans by the Local Governments, but to the fact that large recoveries are expected in 1898-99 of the heavy loans to cultivators and others in the current and past year. The following is a comparison of the gross recoveries and issues for several years:—

	Issues.	Recoveries.
1894-95.....	68 ,806	512,267
1895-96.....	744,789	506 246
1896-97.....	1,337,194	542,638
1897-98, Revised.....	1,4 6,000	8 4 3 0
1898-99, Budget	797.600	839,800

The estimates for next year provide for normal requirements for advances to agriculturists and others, and the Government of India, I am glad to say, have been able to pass with little change the proposals of the Local Governments for loans to Municipalities and other Local Bodies for specified works of public improvement.

CASH BALANCE.

202. The year 1898-99 is estimated to close with a cash balance in the Indian Treasuries of Rx.16,208,952, which is less than the opening balance of the year by Rx. 513,400.

Calcutta, March 21. J. WESTLAND.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES OF THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, IN INDIA AND IN ENGLAND.

	For details vide Statement.	RECEIPTS. Accounts, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1898-99.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.
REVENUE—					
Principal Heads of Revenue—		Rx.	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
Land Revenue	A	23,974,489	25,646,200	25,932,300	27,568,200
Opium	"	6,409,338	5,816,200	5,242,300	5,329,800
Salt	"	8,421,705	8,731,000	8,625,000	8,728,000
Stamps	"	4,777,742	4,836,500	4,806,200	4,855,900
Excise	"	5,614,200	5,679,100	5,507,300	5,717,800
Customs	"	4,491,477	4,491,900	4,577,400	4,590,500
Other Heads	"	8,503,557	8,670,700	8,785,100	8,870,100
Total Principal Heads Rx....		62,192,408	63,774,600	63,425,600	65,659,800
Interest	A	1,082,555	841,300	868,900	929,800
Post Office, Telegraph, and Mint	"	2,011,632	2,982,800	3,348,300	3,203,900
Receipts by Civil Departments	"	1,678,568	1,689,200	1,703,100	1,733,000
Miscellaneous	"	1,066,574	1,023,100	899,500	918,600
Railways	"	29,297,820	20,682,400	21,167,300	21,823,600
Irrigation	"	3,160,639	3,122,500	3,591,100	3,228,100
Buildings and Roads	"	696,214	679,600	660,500	678,700
Receipts by Military Department	"	953,330	881,300	897,300	909,900
Total Revenue Rx.....	"	94,129,741	95,676,800	96,561,500	99,085,400
DEBT, DEPOSITS, AND ADVANCES—					
Permanent Debt (net Incurred)	C	5,107,235	6,924,900	6,067,800	5,290,300
Temporary Debt (net Incurred)	"	.....	1,000,000	5,000,000	...
Unfunded Debt (net Incurred)	"	.....	502,400	...	538,800
Deposits and Advances (net)	"	.....	1,497,500	3,386,700	598,600
Loans and Advances by Imperial Government (net) Receipts)	"	34,930	91,500	52,200	91,300
Capital of Railway Companies (net Receipts)	"	695,292	...	...	..
Remittances (net)	"	314,202	..	..	53,000
Secretary of State's Bills drawn	"	15,526,547	13,000,000	9,378,000	16,000,000
Total Receipts....	..	116,107,947	118,693,100	120,446,200	121,657,400
Balance on 1st April—India Rx	..	16,500,510	13,465,810	13,873,752	16,722,352
England.. £	..	3,393,798	2,814,698	2,832,354	2,168,254
GRAND TOTAL....	..	136,002,255	134,973,608	137,152,306	140,548,006

	For details vide Statement.	DISBURSEMENTS. Accounts, 1896-97.	Budget Estimate, 1897-98.	Revised Estimate, 1897-98.	Budget Estimate, 1898-99.
EXPENDITURE—		Rx.	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
Direct Demands on the Revenues	B	10,903,691	11,229,400	10,842,800	11,210,900
Interest	"	3,453,958	3,560,000	3,499,200	3,578,800
Post Office, Telegraph, and Mint	"	2,711,693	2,891,200	2,878,100	2,932,000
Salaries and Expenses of Civil Dpts	"	15,445,196	15,467,800	15,721,300	15,694,800
Miscellaneous Civil Charges	"	5,858,709	5,913,000	5,724,500	5,777,600
Famine Relief and Insurance	"	2,126,355	3,056,300	5,414,200	1,099,200
Construction of Railways (charged against Revenue in addition to that under Famine Insurance)	"	12,750	7,300	4,700	5,800
Railway Revenue Account	"	22,957,801	25,499,300	22,981,300	23,981,400
Irrigation	"	3,251,909	3,111,700	3,138,200	3,213,300
Buildings and Roads	"	5,783,296	5,790,100	5,464,000	6,021,800
Army Services	"	24,255,338	24,195,500	27,027,000	25,055,000
Special Defence Works	"	94,610	19,400	35,400	..
Total Expenditure, Imperial & Provl Rx	..	96,858,400	99,830,800	102,550,300	98,310,800
Add—Provincial Surpluses: that is, portion of Allotments to Provincial Governments not spent by them in the year	End of B	...	9,200	135,900	137,500
Deduct—Provincial Deficits: that is, portion of Provincial Expenditure defrayed from Provincial balances	"	1,023,637	1,199,200	840,700	254,300
Total Expenditure charged against Revenue Rx	..	95,834,763	98,140,800	101,844,600	98,194,000
EXPENDITURE NOT CHARGED TO REVENUE—					
Capital Outlay on Railways and Irrigation works Rx	End of B	4,984,422	6,588,600	4,604,600	5,749,300
DEBT, DEPOSITS, AND ADVANCES—					
Permanent Debt (net Discharged)	C	..	..	...	..
Temporary Debt (net Discharged)	"	1,000,000	...	..	...
Unfunded Debt (net Discharged)	"	319,495	...	363,700	...
Deposits and Advances (net)	"	1,157,437	...	..	...
Loans and Advances by Provincial Governments (net Advances)	"	829,486	336,900	683,900	..
Capital of Railway Companies (net Payments)	"	..	1,274,000	1,274,000	29,100
Remittances (net)	"	..	15,000	5,700	2,109,300
Secretary of State's Bills paid	"	15,170,546	13,025,300	9,385,200	...
Total Disbursements.....	..	119,296,149	119,389,600	118,261,700	16,014,900
Balance on 31st March—India.. Rx	..	13,873,752	13,321,710	16,722,352	122,686,200
England.. £	..	2,832,354	2,271,298	2,168,254	16,308,952
GRAND TOTAL....	..	136,002,255	134,973,608	137,152,306	2,282,854
					140,548,006

	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
Revenue	94,129,741	95,676,800	96,564,500	99,085,400
Expenditure chargeable thereon	95,834,763	98,140,800	101,844,600	98,194,000
Surplus (+) Deficit (—) ...Rx	—1,705,022	—2,464,000	—5,283,100	+891,400

FORT WILLIAM,
Finance and Commerce Department.
The 21st March 1898.

W. H. DOBBIE,
Deputy Comptroller General.

STEPHEN JACOB,
Comptroller General.

J. F. FINLAY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

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Vessels.	Tons.	Captains. SATURDAY, 2 P.M. 1898.
B.M.L. CALEDONIA	7558	W. B. Andrews. 26th Mar.
* SHANNON	4189	F. Cole ..... 2nd April.
B.M.L. ORIENTAL	5284	F. H. Seymour... 9th "
* CLYDE	4099	E.H. Gordon ... 16th "
B.M.L. CARTHAGE	5237	J. R. Lendon ... 23rd "
* SHANNON	4189	F. Cole..... 30th "
B.M.L. EGYPT	8000	R. F. Briscoe .. 7th May.
* CLYDE	4099	E. H. Gordon .. 14th "
B.M.L. ARABIA	8000	A. W. Adamson 21st "
* SHANNON	4189	F. Cole ..... 28th "
B.M.L. CALEDONIA	7558	W. B. Andrews. 4th June.
* CLYDE	4099	E. H. Gordon... 11th "
B.M.L. PENINSULAR	5237	W. A. Wheler.. 18th "
† SHANNON	4189	F. Cole..... 25th "
B.M.L. ORIENTAL	5284	F. H. Seymour... 2nd July.
† CLYDE	4099	E. Gordon ..... 9th "
B.M.L. EGYPT	7912	R. F. Briscoe... 16th "
† SHANNON	4189	F. Cole..... 23rd "
B.M.L. ARABIA	8000	A.W. Adamson 30th "

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Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Company.
Bombay, 3rd March, 1897.

P. & O. S. N. COMPANY.

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IMPERATOR	T. Nicolich	4,119	1st May 1898.

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GISELA	L. reilch	4,253	12th May 1898.

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OCEANIEN	4,349	Schmitz	12th April, 1898.
ERNEST SIMONS	5,707	DeManbenge	10th May 1898
INDUS	6,000	Vaquier	7th June 1898.

TO COLOMBO, SINGAPORE, JAVA, SAIGON, TONQUIN, CHINA, JAPAN, AND AUSTRALIA.

Vessel.	Tons.	Captain.	To sail on or about the
LAOS	6,000	Flanelin...	7th April.

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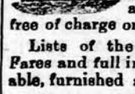

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CARLOWITZ	"	15	8	...		17	4	...	

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EMIL SCARPA,
Agent.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY.

TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION.

VICTORIA by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen Defender of the Faith, Empress of India.

Petition for Letters of Administration of the property and credits of the late RAHIMATBAI, widow of ABDOOL KARIM BIN HAJAB MALLI, of Bombay, Mahomedan Inhabitant, deceased,

AHMED ABDOOL KARIM, the second Son of the abovenamed deceased. .....Petitioner.

ALL PERSONS claiming to have any interest in the Estate of the abovenamed deceased, are hereby cited to come and see the Proceedings, if they think fit, before the Grant of Letters of Administration.

Witness, Sir CHARLES FREDERICK FARRAN, Knight, Chief Justice at Bombay, aforesaid, the 22nd day of February, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-Eight and in the Sixty-first year of our Reign.

J. W. ORR,
Registrar.

The Seal of the High Court at Bombay

L. N. BANAJI,
The 22nd day of February, 1898.

AHMED ABDUL KARIM,
In person.

GRINDLAY & CO., CALCUTTA,
BANKERS AND AGENTS,
SHIPPING DEPARTMENT.

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By order of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, Messrs. MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON and Co. will sell by Public Auction, at the Arthur Crawford Markets, THIS DAY, TUESDAY, the 22nd instant, at 11 a.m., the right of collecting fair ground and feeding fees from cattle-dealers, butchers, and all others at the Bombay Municipal Slaughter-Houses, Bandora, for 12 months, from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899, and fees in the Fort Market, Arthur Crawford Beef Market, Arthur Crawford Fish and Mutton Markets, Erskine Road Fish Market, Foras Road Fish Market, Colaba Fish Market, and Peddar Market, Mazagon, from fresh and salt fish-sellers, &c., who sell on the floor or other places not numbered, either in line or outside under the eaves of the markets, for 12 months, from 1st April, 1898, to 31st March, 1899.

For particulars and conditions of these sales, respectively, apply at the Municipal Commissioner's Office, Fort, or at the office of the Superintendent of Markets, Arthur Crawford Markets, or to the undersigned. The Municipal Commissioner does not bind himself to accept the highest or any offer.

MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON & Co.

Bombay, 22nd March, 1898.

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TRADING COMPANY,
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ESTATE COLONEL WALTER SCOTT PEAT.

Pursuant to Section 42 Act XXVII of 1860.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having claims against the late WALTER SCOTT PEAT, COLONEL, Bombay Staff Corps, who died at West Kensington, London, in the County of Middlesex, on the 22nd April, 1897, Letters of Administration to whose Estate have been granted to PERCEVAL RICHARD WILSON, a Member of the firm of Messrs. GRINDLAY, GROOM and Co., of Bombay, are requested to send in the same within one month from this date to the said Messrs. GRINDLAY, GROOM and Co., Bombay, after which date the said Administrator will proceed to administer the assets, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have received notice, and no claim sent in subsequently will be recognised, and all persons indebted to or holding any securities or property belonging to the said estate are also hereby requested to pay without delay the amount owing by them or deliver the said securities or property to the said Administrator, whose receipt alone is valid for the same.

P. R. WILSON,
Administrator to Estate.

Bombay, 18th March, 1898.

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A TERRIBLE COUGH.
A TERRIBLE COUGH.

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"Dear Sir,—I am a poor hand at expressing my feelings, but I should like to thank you. Your lozenges, have done wonders in relieving my terrible cough, Since I had the operation of 'Tracheotomy' (the same as the late Emperor of Germany, and unlike him, thank God, I am still alive) performed at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, no one could possibly have had a more violent cough: it was so bad at times that it quite exhausted me. The mucous, which was very copious and hard, has been softened, and I have been able to get rid of it without difficulty.—I am, sir, yours truly, J. HILL."

A DOCTOR'S TESTIMONY.
A DOCTOR'S TESTIMONY.
A DOCTOR'S TESTIMONY.

"Routh Park, Cardiff, South Wales, Sept. 28, 1893.

"I have, indeed, great pleasure in adding my testimony to your excellent preparation of Cough Lozenges, as I have prescribed it now for the last eight years in my hospital and private practice, and found it of grat benefit. I often suffer from Chronic Bronchitis; your Lozenge is the only remedy which gives me immediate ease. Therefore, I certainly and most strongly recommend your Lozenges to the public who may suffer from Catarrh, Bronchitis, Winter Cough, or any kind of Pulmonary Irritation.—Yours truly,

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CURRENT ACCOUNTS received 2 per cent. per annum up to Rs. 10,000 in the event of the balance not falling below Rs. 500.

OPEN CREDITS AND LOANS are granted upon any marketable security. BILLS, PROMISSORY NOTES are discounted.

Investment orders executed on the London Stock Exchange under Code with London Bankers.

Apply for Rules to Head Office or Branches.

By Order of the Board,
C. BEERESFORD,
Manager.

Bombay 20th July 1897

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid up Capital	$ 100,00,000
Reserve Fund	$ 80,00,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	$ 100,00,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS AND HEAD OFFICE IN HONGKONG:

T. JACKSON, *Chief Manager*.

London Bankers.—LONDON and COUNTY BANKING COMPANY, LD.

LONDON COMMITTEE:

E. F. DUNCANSON, Esq. (of Messrs. T. A. Gibb & Co.
WM. ANASTASIUS JONES, Esq. (Director of the London and County Banking Co., Limited).
F. D. PARKES, Esq. (Managing Director, P. & O. S. N. Co.
G. EINOBLE, Esq., 37 Inverness Terrace, Bayswater, W.)

EWEN CAMERON, JOHN WALTER. } Managers.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES
LONDON HONGKONG. SHANGHAI.

AMOY.	HANKOW.	PENANG.
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COLOMBO.	NAGASAKI.	SOURABAYA.
FOOCHOW.	NEW YORK.	TIENTSIN.
HAMBURG.	PEKING.	YOKOHAMA

BOMBAY AGENCY.

CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS.

Interest allowed at ½ per cent. per annum on Daily Balances if not under Rs. 1,000, and not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000; but no interest is allowed when the sum accrued does not amount to Rs. 5 half-yearly.

FIXED DEPOSITS.

Are received at 4½ per cent. for 12 months, and for shorter periods, on terms which may be learnt on application.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every Description of Banking and Exchange Business transacted.

Drafts granted on London and the chief commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China, and Japan.

W. B. THOMSON,
Acting Agent.

47, Church Gate Street, Bombay, and at 51, Dalhousie Square, South Calcutta.

CREDIT LYONNAIS.

ESTABLISHED 1863.

CAPITAL (fully paid) Fcs. 200,000,000 = £8,000,000
RESERVE FUND.....Fcs. 40,000,000 = £1,600,000

BOMBAY BRANCH: ESPLANADE ROAD.
CENTRAL OFFICE: PARIS. HEAD OFFICE: LYONS.

BRANCHES in all the principal Towns of France and Algiers.

LONDON OFFICE: 40, Lombard Street, E. C.
WEST END BRANCH: 4, Cockspur Street, S. W.
BRANCH IN CALCUTTA.

FOREIGN BRANCHES.

Alexandria, St. Petersburg, Madrid, Brussels, Constantinople Cairo, Moscow, Barcelona, Geneva, Smyrna, Port Said, Odessa, Jerusalem.

THE CREDIT LYONNAIS, BOMBAY BRANCH sells Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers on all parts of the world, negotiates and collects Bills and Coupons on the English and Foreign Towns.

Issues Letters of Credits.

Exchanges Foreign money, executes investment orders in Securities on all Indian, English, or Foreign Stock Exchanges, and gives information when required on Securities dealt in on the Leading Stock Exchanges.

Receives Securities for safe custody and collects interests or dividends on same on conditions to be arranged.

Grants advances in current account, or for fixed periods on Rupee paper, approved stock, shares, bullion, and produce.

Opens deposit accounts, allowing interest on the daily balances.

Receives fixed deposits on terms to be ascertained on application.

C. TROST,
Manager.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LT.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ...£1,000,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL £500,000
RESERVE FUND £200,000

HEAD OFFICE:
37, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

BRANCHES:
Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Colombo, Kurrachee, Delhi, Rangoon, Mandalay, Tuticorin, Kandy, Newera Elya, Zanzibar, Steamer Point, Aden, Cawnpore and Mombassa.

FIXED DEPOSITS.

The Bank receives Deposits fixed for 1 year at 4½ per cent interest, and for shorter periods, at rates to be ascertained on application.

CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS are opened for approved Customers, and Interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances from Rs. 1,000 up to Rs. 1,00,000, but no Interest is allowed when the sum accrued does not amount to Rs. 10 half-yearly.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE payable in the principal Cities of Europe, India, China, and Australia purchased or collected.

DRAFTS are granted on the Head Office and Branches of the Bank and on the principal Cities of Europe and Australia. Remittances may be made by telegram.

The Bank undertakes the purchase and sale of Government Securities, Stocks, and Shares, and receives same for safe custody realising Interest and Dividends when due.

LOANS and CASH CREDITS granted on approved Securities

H. CHALMERS,
Manager.

BANKS.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL £800,000
RESERVE FUND..... £375,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF SHAREHOLDERS £800,000

HEAD OFFICE.
HATTON COURT, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON

AGENCIES AND BRANCHES:

Bombay.	Singapore.	Hankow.
Calcutta.	Bangkok.	Foochow.
Rangoon.	Kwala Lumpor.	Manila.
Colombo.	Batavia.	Yokohama.
Penang.	Sourabaya.	Kobe.
Thaiping.	Hongkong.	Tientsin.
Deli (Sumatra).	Shanghai.	

The Corporation GRANT DRAFTS on the above Agencies and Branches; buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange; issue Letters of Credit; and undertake general banking business.

FIXED DEPOSITS

are received for TWELVE MONTHS at FOUR AND A HALF PER CENT per annum and for SIX MONTHS at FOUR PER CENT per annum. Rates for shorter periods may be ascertained on application

T. FRASER,
Acting Agent.

Bombay Agency, Elphinstone Circle.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LD.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ..... Yens 12,000,000
PAID UP CAPITAL ..... " 9,000,000
RESERVE FUND ..... " 6,360,000

HEAD OFFICE:—YOKOHAMA.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES:

Kobe, London, Lyons, New York, San Francisco Hawaii, Shanghai, and Hongkong.

BANKERS—The LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK; The UNION BANK of LONDON; THE PARR'S BANK LIMITED.

BOMBAY AGENCY:

LIBERAL INTEREST allowed on CURRENT ACCOUNT, and FIXED DEPOSITS, on Terms to be learnt on application.

CREDITS granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange Business transacted.

DRAFTS granted on JAPAN, and the Chief Commercial places in the World.

T. KAWASHIMA,
Agent.

Sirdar's Palace, Apollo Street, Fort, Bombay.

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BY JOHN O'NEILL.

NOW PUBLISHED.

IN TWO VOLUMES, WITH INDEX.

THIS work, embodying a vast amount of accurately recorded Folk Lore, Myths and Symbols, and giving especial prominence to the Mythology of India and the Further East is now complete in Two Volumes.

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CONTENTS.

VOLUME I.

AXIS MYTHS.
1. The Axis or Spear, Pike or Pal.
2. The God Picus.
3. Divine Names in Pal.
4. The Rod and Rhabdomancy.
5. The Fleur-de-Lis at the Axis Point.
6. The Trident.
7. The 'Aopy' and 'Apwn' of Kronos.
8. Divine Names in Harp—and Dor.

THE STONE.
9. Natural Magnets; Meteorities and Beth-Ela.
10. The Loadstone Mountain —Crete.
11. Mayvas, Medea and Mala—Touch-stone.
12. The Œdipus Myths.
13. The Cardinal Points.
14. The Four Living Creatures.

THE PILLAR.
15. The Axis a Pillar
16. Divine Names in Lat.
17. The Tat of Ptah—The Tee and Umbrella.
18. The Heavens Palace and its Pillar.
19. The Colophon.
20. The Dual Pillars—Pillar Wind Gods.
21. The Dokana or Gate of Heaven.

THE PILLAR AXIS AS TOWER.
22. The Round Towers of Ireland—Pillar Stones.
23. Some other Towers.

THE AXIS AND THE UNIVERSE TREE.
24. The Tree-trunk.
25. The Christmas-tree.
26. The Myths of Daphne Ag Lauros.
27. The Gods of the Druids.

POLAR MYTHS.
1. The Navels—Navo Hearth-fire—Sanctuary
2. The Rock of Ages.
3. The Aranea.
4. The North
5. The Eye of Heaven.
6. The Pole Star.

APPENDIX.
a Additions and Subtractions.
b Skeleton Argument
c Lapses and Relapses.

VOLUME II.

HEAVEN'S MYTHS.
THE WHEEL.
1. The Praying Wheel.
2. The Fire Wheel.
3. The Heaven's Wheel.
4. The Wheel-God.
5. The Wheel of Fortune.
6. The Glyph Ra.
7. The Wreath.
8. The Romaunt of the Rose.

BUDDHA'S FOOTPRINTS.
9. Shoes of Swiftness
10. Buddha's Footprints.
11. The Three Steps.
12. The Legs o' Man.
13. The Chakra as Wheel of the Law.
14. The Sunstika.
15. The Labyrinth.
16. The Doric Frot.
17. The Conch-Shell.
18. The Chakra as Weapon
19. The Flaming Sword.
20. Stone Weapons of the Gods.
21. Cetannia, Brontia, and Ombria,

DANCING.
22. Circular Worship.
23. Right and Left.
24. Religious Dancing.
25. Leaping.
26. The Salii.
27. Numa Pompilius.
28. The Dance of the Stars.
29. The "Dancing" Dervishes,

THE SPHERE.
30. The Winged Sphere.
31. The Man-Bird-God.
32. The Wings of Kronos.
33. Divine Birds.
34. Feathers.
35. The Egg.
36. The Winged Scarab.

SOME HEAVEN'S GODS.
KRONOS AND PTAH.
1. Kronos.
2. The Symbols O, D & D
3. Fallen Gods.
4. Polar versus Solar Worship.
5. The White Wall.
6. Argos, Argo, and the Argei.
7. Danae.
8. Seb-Kronos.

THE KABEIROI OR KHABIRM.
9. The Seven Kabeiroi.
10. The Kabeiroi generally.
11. The Three Kabeiroi.
12. The Two Kabeiroi
13. The Dioscuri.
14. Corybantes.
15. The Curetes.
16. The Dactyles.
17. The Telchines.
18. The Arvalian Brothers.

HEAVEN'S MYTHS—(Resumed).
THE HEAVEN'S-RIVER.
1. The Milky Way.
2. The Boon.
3. The Milky Way (Resumed).
4. The Glyph M.M.M.
5. Holy Water.
6. Nebulæ and Meteors.
7. Weaving the Veil.

HEAVEN'S (AND AXIS) MYTHS.
THE MOUNTAIN.
1. Atlas.
2. Meru.
3. The Dual Mountain.
4. Holy Mountains generally.
5. Mountain Climbing.
6. Parsi Dakhanas.
7. The Marvellous Mountain.
8. The Mountain as Heaven's vault.
9. The Enchanted Island.
10. Le Pays de Cocagne.
11. The Cone.

POLAR MYTHS.
THE NUMBER SEVEN.
1. Astrology.
2. The Seven of Ursa Majo
3. Thebes.
4. The Number Seven.
5. The Seven Sleepers.
6. The Seven Churches.
7. The Week.
8. The Maini, Maruts, and Rishis.
9. The Week (Resumed).

THE SOUTH.
1. The South.
2. Sisyphus and Tantalus. Also from Volume I.
3. The Tomoye.

UNIVERSE-AXIS MYTHS.
1. The Axis as a

BOMBAY BANK AND STOCK LIST

BANKS.

	Shares.	Amount.	Paid-up.	Last Half Yearly. Divid.	Cash Rate.
INDIAN BANKS.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Bank of Bombay	20,000	500	all	10 p. c. } 1 bon. }	1,252½
Bank of Bengal	40,000	500	all	10 pr. ct.	1,160
Bank of Madras	10,000	500	all	10 pr. ct.	1,170
Commercial & Ld. Mge.	} 10,000 } 15,000	100	{ 100 { 75	{ 10 p.c.	118
EXCHANGE BANKS.					
Agra	1,00,000	£6	all	3 pr. ct.	80
Charter Bank	40,000	£20	£20	9 pr. ct.	£29½
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	80,000	£125	all	£1-5s.	
National Bank Indiafa	48,000	£25	£12½	7 pr. ct.	285

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				Yearly	
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Albert Ginning Co.	100	500	all	18 pr. ct.	45
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Bombay Cotton	1,000	125	125	dv Rs12½	125
Brenls Cawnpore Press Co., Ld.	500	200	200	14	155
Broach City Press Co., Ld	600	200	200	dvdRs25	210
Colaba	500	1,880	1,880	dvdRs15	315
East India	350	1,000	1,000	75	1,150
English Press and Manfg.	400	200	...	dvd Rs 8	85
ort	150	8,500	500	25+80	1,100
French	300	500	500	dvdRs30	500
Harvey and Sabapathy	450	450	500	dvdRs40	355xd
Hingoli Press Co., Ld.	700	100	100	dvdRs11	145
Khangaum	240	450	450	Rs 40	455
Mahuva Press Co., Ld.	300	200	all	15 pr. ct.	210
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Mercantile	600	125	125	dvd Rs 4	85
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Munmar M	000	250	a	15	205
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New Indian	4,000	125	125	dvd 16¼	161¼
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Sabapathy (Bellary)	500	500	7	0	375
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Sind and Punjab Co.	100	1,000	1,000	200	2,000
Sind	400	2,000	750	50	490
Sorab Woollen Mills	200	250	250	Nil.	75
Surat City Press Co., Ld.	37	200	all	12	200xd
Volkert	—	000	10	dvd Rs65	1,008

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				Halfyearly	
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Alliance	1,500	1,100	all	...	490
Anglo-Indian	1,345	...	00	Nil	45
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Bombay United	900	1,000	1,000	dvdRs.40	700
Bombay Cotton Manfg. Co.	900	500	500	dvdRs.30	580
Bombay National Manfg. Co., Ld.	500	1,000	1,000	...	690
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Central India	1,000	500	500	dvdRs.70	1,665
China Mills Co, Ld.	800	1,000	1,000	dvdRs.30	795
City of Bombay Mills	800	1,000	1,000	dvdRs.50	980
Coimbatore S. and W.	6,000	100	100	9 pr ct.	125
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Empress	2,100	500	500	dvd 25	540xd
Framjee Petit	1,250	1,000	1,000	dvdRs.30	570
Hindustan	875	1,000	1,000	dvdRs.35	565
Hingunghat Mills	700	500	500	40	670
Howard and Bulloughs	1,500	500	500	25	685xd
Hope Mills	500	1,000	1,000	50	600
Hyderabad	700	1,000	1,000	40	1,600
Imperial Cotton	900	500	500	dvdRs.15	480
Indian Manfg.	00	1,000	1,000	no dvd	1,010
Indo-China Manufacturing Co., Ld	700	1,000	1,000	dvdRs.50	825
James Greaves	1,100	500	500	20	640xd
Jaffer Alli	600	500	500	dvdRs.20	220
Jamshed Manufacturing Co.	1,800	250	250	dvdRs.7½	217½
Jewraj Balloo	1,000	1,000	1,000	no dvd	765
Jubilee Mills Co., Ld.	843	1,000	1,000	20	575
Khandeish	750	1,000	,000	dvdRs.30	820
Khangaum Manfg. Co.	400	250	250	Nil	950
Khatao Makunjee	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvdRs.25	675
Leopold	3,500	100	103	dvdRs.10	222½xd
Lord Reay Mfg	445	1,000	1,000	30	675
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Madras United	350	1,000	1,000	dvRs.100	3,350
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Mahboob Shah Mills (Gulburga)	8,400	500	500	15 pr ct.	...
Manockjee Petit	4,000	1,000	1,000	dvdRs 70	2,425
Mazagon	5,000	250	250	dvdRs. 5	102 1-2
Morarji Goculdas	1,050	1,000	1,000	dvdRs.75	2080
Mysore S & M. Co., Ld.	4,000	250	250	dvdRs.15	250
Madura Mills	7,779	100	100	Nil	par
National	500	1,000	1,000	Nil	525
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Oriental	5,725	625	625	dvd Rs20	330
Presidency Mills, Co. (Ld).	743	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs10	1,300
Queen Mills	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs35	800
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Sholapore Mills	500	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs60	2025
Soonderdas	750	1,000	1,000	yrly Rs50	775
Southern India	1,000	500	500	15	265
Southern Mahratta	1,21	250	250	dv Rs.12½	350
Sun Mills, Ld.	1,30	250	250	Rs.50	280
Standard Mills Co.	1,600	500	500	25	340
Star of India	1,000	1,000	1,000	Nil	600
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Sassoon and Alliance	3,000	500	500	dvdRs.15	580
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Victoria Mills	550	1,000	1,000	Nil	500nom.
Western India	1,200	1,000	1,000	dvdRs.50	660
Wadhwan City Ginning Pressing & Manufacturing Co., Ld.	400	250	all	dvdRs15	250
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MISCELLANEOUS.

				Half yearly	
Alcock Ashdown	1,750	100	100	dvd Rs15	205
Back Bay Baths	500	50	50	12	45
Badham Pile	5,000	100	100	12	145
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Do. New Issue.	500	375	625	75	1,515xd
Bombay Ice Mfg. Co., Ld.	1,250	100	100	dvd 3	57
Bombay Land and Building Co. Ld.	400	500	500	5-pr. ct	50
Bombay Flour Mill	4,000	500	50		1,200
Deccan Paper Mills	1,000	500	500	5-pr ct.	205
Delhi and Northern India Flour Mills	1,500	280	200	dvdRs10	235
Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co., Ld.	2,800	250	250	8 pr. ct.	350
Empire of India Life A, Co., Ld.	2,000	500	50	...	52
Indian Guarantee Surety Ship Assn	5,000	100	10	10 pr. ct.	18
[illegible] Roberts	1,500	100	100	10 pr. ct.	170
Kemp & Co.	4,000	200	175	21	352
Kurrachee Landing	500	500	300	30	183
Marcks & Co., Ld.	4,000	100	100	dvdRs15	150
Napier Hotel Co	2,000	100	100	9 pr. ct.	30
Napier Foundry	1,000	100	200	...	60
Oriental Govt. Security Life Insurance	5,000	200	50	12 pr. ct.	140
Phillips & Co., Ld.	4,000	100	100	dvd Rs 6	74
Port Canning Co.	6,000	1000	1,000	dvdRs20	460
Soundy & Co.	1,000	100	100	5	49½
Treacher & Co.	2,000	500	500	60	1,0335
Thacker & Co.	1,500	100	100	...	157
Telephone Co.	2,200	251	100	dvdRs11	28

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English Gold	Rs.	24-4
China Leaf	"	24-2
Pekin, bar Gold, old	"	24-3
Do. do. new	"	24-1
Australian, bar Gold 100	"	24-4
Bombay bar Gold	"	24-8
Sovereigns	"	15-3
Do. Dragons	"	15-2
Bar Silver [illegible]	"	70-12
Do. [illegible]	"	70-14

BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, 6h. 3m. Sun sets, 6h. 11m. High water, 11-39m., 11-40a. Low water, 5-12m., 5-22a.
Bombay Foxhounds meet, Shahar.
Bombay Art Society's Exhibition, Secretariat, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Prize-distribution, Grant Medical College, 4-45 p.m.
Islam Gymkhana, annual general meeting, 5 p.m.
Meeting of the University Senate, 5-15 p.m.
Lady Sandhurst's Charity Concert, Town Hall, 5-30 p.m.

POLO.—There will be a game at 5 o'clock, this afternoon.

BOMBAY MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—The adjourned meeting of the Bombay Medical and Physical Society will be held in the University Library, on Friday next, at 5-15 p.m.

ARYA SAMAJ.—The twenty-fourth anniversary of this Samaj will be celebrated at the Samaj Hall, Kakadwady, Girgaum, as under:—Wednesday, at 8 a.m., Havan ceremony, and sermon, and at 5 30 p.m. lectures and sermons on "Vedic Dharma."

FALL OF A DRUNKEN MAN.—Shamshir Khan Budhan Khan, a Mahomedan, aged about thirty-five years, residing at 5th Lane, Kamatipoora, was, on Sunday night, staggering along the Bazaar Road under the influence of liquor, when he fell down and sustained a contused wound on the right side of the head. He was removed to the J. J. Hospital, where he is now being treated.

CAPSIZING OF A JOLLY BOAT.—About 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, a Custom jolly boat, in charge of tindal Fakeer, was sailing near the Ballard Pier, when owing to the strong breeze that was blowing at the time she capsized and the crew were thrown into the water. A Port Trust launch went to their assistance, and rescued the crew, and the boat was subsequently towed to the Customs Bunder.

VIVIANNE DAGMAR'S COMEDY AND VARIETY CO.—Miss Dagmar and her talented Company are to visit Bombay for a short season. Miss Dagmar played with the London Lyric Co. some three or four years ago and created a favourable impression with her wonderful serpentine dance. Miss Dagmar does four serpentine dances now, and each dance has a complete change of dress. The dances alone occupy twenty-five minutes of the programme of the company, which comprises seven star artistes.

MUSIC AT THE YACHT CLUB.—The Band of the 21st Bombay Infantry, under the direction of Bandmaster A. Mallandaine, will play the following programme at the Royal Bombay Yacht Club, this evening, at 5-45:—

March	Corporal Snook	Rimmer.
Japanese Mazurka	La Mousme	Louis Ganne.
Selection	The Circus Girl	Ivan Caryll.
Polka (Piccolo Solo)	The Deep Blue Sea	Brewer.
Fantasia, No. 3, on	Popular Ballads	Kappey.
Valse	Moreska	Florence Fare.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

ACCIDENTS ON BOARD STEAMERS.—On Sunday morning, a Hindu day labourer, named Nayak, aged twenty-six years, was walking along the deck of the steam-ship Kola, when he accidentally fell into No. 1 hold, fracturing his right knee and cutting his lip. He was conveyed to the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital and detained for treatment.—About 10 o'clock, on Saturday night, a Hindu day labourer, named Dala Naroo, aged forty years, was engaged in throwing coal into No. 4 hold of the steam-ship Dilwara, when his foot accidentally slipped and he fell into the hold, sustaining internal injuries. He was taken to the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital and detained under treatment.

DEATH OF A PARSEE JOURNALIST.—The native journalists have sustained a loss in the death of Mr. Ardeshir Adarji Khansahib, who had been long connected with the *Jam-e-Jamshed*. The deceased was a versatile Gujerati writer, and was of a retired disposition. He was a regular contributor to several newspapers and periodicals and his writings were characterised with simplicity of language and quiet humour. Only a few days back he wrote a sketch of the Parsee Fever Hospital, and he could then have little foreseen that he was destined to die there. He leaves behind him a widowed mother, his own widow, and a small daughter of five years of age. He was taken to the hospital on Tuesday last, and died on Sunday morning. A few days before his death his mother was also attacked with plague and removed to the hospital, where she is lying, quite ignorant of the sad fate of her only son, who was greatly respected amongst his numerous friends.

SUICIDE OF A WOMAN.—Mr. Allan F. Turner, the coroner, held an inquiry, yesterday, at the J. J. Hospital, touching the death of Munjoola, aged thirty years, the kept-mistress of one Sulleman Shaik Hoossein, a Mahomedan labourer, residing at Temker Street. The deceased and Sulleman arrived in Bombay from their native country about two months ago and put up in the passage of a chawl in Temker Street. Munjoola used to earn one to two annas every day by grinding corn, while Sulleman used to do odd jobs. On Saturday morning, Sulleman left home in search of work, but could not get it and returned home in the evening sullen and angry. He asked deceased, who was seated in the passage, whether she had earned anything during the day and cooked any food for him. She became sullen and would not answer. Sulleman thereupon abused her, and they had a quarrel. They went to bed without taking any food. On the following morning Sulleman left home as usual, and when he returned at noon to have his midday meal, he found Munjoola lying unconscious and breathing heavily. He brought a victoria and removed her to the J. J. Hospital, where it was found that she had been suffering from opium poisoning. She did not come to herself again and died in the evening, a few hours after admission. From the evidence of a servant to a licensed vendor of opium at Null Bazar it appears that on Sunday morning deceased purchased two annas worth of opium. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

THANA NEWS.—Our local correspondent, writing on Sunday, says:—Mr. Sorabji Padumji Pestonji, B. C. S., has been appointed First Assistant to the Collector of Thana, from the 15th instant. Mr. Ganesh Krishna Apte, B.A., L.C.E., of Bijapoor, is transferred to the Thana District as Executive Engineer, Second Grade.—It is stated that the residents of Oomergaum Petha, of the Thana District, intend presenting an address in a public meeting to Azam Byramji Kanjibhai, Police Patel of Tadgaum, in recognition of his timely help and saving the lives of several khalasees belonging to a padow, which was wrecked near Tadgaum last month. The padow was laden with the bags of cocoanuts and a large portion of the cargo was saved by the exertions of the above mentioned police patel.—Goorow Maratha, a day labourer, residing near Mr. Nowrojee Jamsetjee Antia's house, was found suffering from the bubonic fever on Friday last. He was immediately removed to the Plague Hospital for medical treatment. A daughter of Mahadoo Mochee, an ex-sepoy of the Marine Battalion, living in Rungaree Street, died of plague yesterday. Babool Gandhi, a promissing young son of Goverdhan Makan, a native doctor, residing in the Bazaar Street, was found suffering from the plague last night. He was sent to the Segregation Hospital at Ootalsar, by Dr. Framroz Ardesir Moos, Plague Authority of Thana. There are eighty men and fifty women (total 130 persons) under observation in the Thana Isolation Camp near the railway station to-day. The thermometer readings ranged from 78 to 92 degrees in the shade yesterday.

BANK OF BENGAL.

THE following is the Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Bengal for the week ending 7th March, 1898, as compared with the Statement of 1st March, 1898:—

LIABILITIES.	March 1. Rs.	A.	P.	March 7. Rs.	A.	P.
Capital paid up	2,00,00,000	0	0	2,00,00,000	0	0
Reserve Fund	83,50,000	0	0	83,50,000	0	0
Public Deposits, &c.	1,49,82,759	0	9	1,70,20,398	0	11
Other Deposits, &c.	4,44,68,665	6	0	4,27,57,638	7	3
Bank Post Bills, &c.	5,58,955	9	9	4,44,075	0	3
Sundries	21,15,132	10	10	21,56,508	0	5
Rs.	9,04,73,512	11	4	9,07,28,617	8	10
ASSETS.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Government Securities	30,58,558	0	0	29,45,981	0	0
Other authorised Invtmts.	73,21,840	0	0	73,15,840	0	0
Loans on Govt. and other Authorised Securities	2,14,13,194	11	5	2,15,59,434	8	7
Accounts of Credit do.	2,46,38,073	2	11	2,45,97,289	15	0
Bills Discounted, &c.	1,26,86,763	3	5	1,25,50,866	12	1
Balances with other Banks	10,44,736	5	9	8,63,538	4	11
Bullion	2,908	9	0	2,740	11	0
Dead Stock	13,15,199	0	2	13,15,338	5	2
Stamps	9,905	14	3	10,004	7	3
Sundries	12,91,836	3	10	12,87,841	3	3
Cash, &c., at Head Office	80,77,026	13	0	77,76,927	11	9
Do. at Branches	96,13,470	11	7	1,05,02,814	9	10
Rs.	9,04,73,512	11	4	9,07,28,617	8	10

The following is the Bank's Memorandum of Liabilities and Assets up to 7th March 1898.

LIABILITIES.	Rs.	
Treasury Balance at Head Office	6,64,912	Inc.
Do. at Branches	13,72,697	do.
Other Deposits	17,09,029	Dec.
Post Bills	1,14,880	do.
ASSETS.		
Bank's Investments	1,18,577	Dec.
Loans	1,46,240	Inc.
Accounts of Credit	40,784	Dec.
Mercantile Bills	1,35,897	do.
Cash at Head Office	3,00,099	do.
Cash at Branches	8,89,344	Inc.

DON'T LOOK OLD.—With advancing years greyness increases. Stop this with Lockyer's Sulphur Hair Restorer, which darkens to the former colour and preserves the appearance.—Lockyer's The English Hair Restorer.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY will not arrive in Simla until April 25th. He will begin his march through the hills from Pathankote on April 1st.

MR. L. P. PUGH has been appointed Standing Counsel in Bengal during the time that Mr. P. O'Kinealy officiates as Judge in the High Court, Calcutta.

SIR SALTER PYNE arrived in Calcutta on Friday. He leaves shortly for Bombay "en route" to Japan, and will not return to Kabul for a long time to come.

SIR JOHN WOODBURN, the Home Member, will make no tour this spring, but will proceed direct to Simla on conclusion of the Calcutta session.

THE appointments of Assistant Adjutant-General, Additional and Assistant Quartermaster-General, Army Headquarters, Simla, are to be continued for the present, pending final orders from Home.

WITH regard to the officiating military command in Bombay, Brigadier-General Black will stand fast at Nagpur. Colonel Tandy, who would have acted as Brigadier, is proceeding on leave: so the vacant post at Deesa still remains to be filled.

MR. FULLER, officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Revenue Department, left Calcutta a few days ago in order that he might be examined before the Famine Commission at Jubbulpur. He is shortly expected to return.

MR. H. G. SAVORY, on return from leave, is appointed Deputy Consulting Engineer to Government for Railways, Calcutta. Mr. H. H. Gahan officiates as Consulting Engineer at Lucknow from the 23rd May until further orders.

SIR SALTER PYNE, who leaves India presently on furlough, will proceed direct to London, instead of travelling *via* the Far East and America, as he had originally intended. He will visit these regions on his return journey.

NEWS received on Friday from Jamrud stated that the Rajgul Kuki Khel have handed in 60 out of 118 rifles demanded; the Kambar Khel 64 out of 154; and the Zakha Khel 20 out of 154. Sir. William Lockhart had a final meeting with their jirgah on Thursday evening when he announced that an advance would be made on the 19th, if the complement of rifles were not forthcoming then, or if hostages for the fulfilment of the terms were not given. The blockade against the sections which submitted would also be temporarily renewed. This announcement had a marked effect upon the maliks, who were most submissive in their attitude, their apprehension regarding fresh invasion being very real. The Kuki and Kambar Khel offered to expel the Zakka Khel if they refused to comply with terms and handed in fifteen more rifles, while the interview with Sir William Lockhart was taking place. There seems no doubt that hostages will now be given. The 1st Brigade is fully equipped for a movement into the Bazar Valley, while the 3rd Brigade is busy roadmaking up the Bara Valley from their new camp. These signs of preparation have caused the jirgahs to make up their minds at last that submission can be no longer delayed.

A LETTER is published in the "Gazette" from Colonel Richardson describing the operations of the flying column, Kohat Field Force, from 20th August to 1st October. The Commander-in-chief endorses the commendatory remarks by the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Punjab army regarding the good and prompt work done by Colonel Richardson and all under his command. Colonel Abbott, commanding 15th Sikhs, is especially mentioned. The other officers mentioned are Captain Kennedy, 3rd Punjab Cavalry, Staff Officer; Lieutenant-Colonel Jameson, 5th Punjab Infantry; Captain Eardley Wilmot, 18th Bengal Lancers; Captain Parker, Derajat Mountain Battery; Captain Dundee, R.E., Bombay Sappers, and Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel H. Hamilton.

MR H. HAVELOCK writes to the "Army and Navy Gazette":—With your permission I desire to make a few remarks on the controversy which has unfortunately arisen as to the relations between the late Sir H. Havelock-Allan and Sir Daniel Lysons. It is much to be regretted that any such dispute should have been raised at such a time, when the two principal parties have so recently been borne to their graves, and I believe I may say authoritatively that no member of our family has been in any way a party to its being so raised. I must, however, point out that Lord Wolseley's letter, which is so triumphantly quoted, is entirely beside the mark, being an "ex post facto" argument, and based entirely, as was inevitable, on the representations of Sir Henry's immediate superior. Apparently the whole affair is closely akin to the "chose jugee" of which we hear so much from Paris, and against which there is said to be no appeal. I will say no more except to ask your readers to try and suspend their judgment until the time, which I hope is not far distant, when an impartial account of the matter can be given to the public by Sir Henry's friends.

THE Madras paddy crop is reported to be damaged by insects in parts of the Godavery and Malabar Districts, diseased in North Arcot, and withering in the Carnatic District. Elsewhere the condition of the crop is reported to be fair. The average outturn for the whole Presidency is estimated at 66—the normal being represented by 100. It is probable that the total area cultivated during the whole year may come up to 6,968,200 acres and the corresponding yield may amount to 57,944,700 cwt. of cleaned rice, or about 20 per cent. more than in the previous year.

NOTWITHSTANDING increased cultivation during the year under report, the estimated outturn of the 1897-98 cotton crop for the Madras Presidency is only 53—the normal being represented by 100. That is due to the crop being affected by blight or drought in some of the chief cotton-growing districts. But the condition of the crop elsewhere is, on the whole, fair. The total area of the cotton crop for the current year is estimated at 1,471,600 acres, and its yield at 97,494 bales of 400 lbs. each—50 lbs. per acre being taken to represent a normal crop.

THE Calcutta agents of the Hongkong and Shanghai and Deutsche Asiatische Banks announce that arrangements have now been completed for the simultaneous issue in London and Berlin on the 22nd instant of the new Chinese 4½ per cent sterling loan for £16,000,000. The issue price has been fixed at 90. The last loan for a similar amount was at 5 per cent and now commands a premium of one per cent.

THE "Sind Gazette" writes:—The roads of Karachi are certainly not things of beauty or joys for ever either as regards condition or picturesqueness, still we must protest against the vandalism of decorating the few trees we possess with huge tin plates the colour of Ricketts blue with a cocoa advertisement on it in large white letters. We do not know if the Municipal Commissioners are unaware of this disfigurement of the station, or whether they have gladly welcomed it as a means of increasing a depleted exchequer. But in either case the advertisement should be taken from the trees, where they have been fastened simply to save trouble, and placed on walls or boardings, where, though not pleasing to the eye, they would not grate so quite roughly on the æthetic sense at the present. Even as an advertisement we think their present position is a mistake. The irritation caused by the sight of these hideous things, so out of place in their surroundings, is enough to make one forswear the use of the particular cocoa advertised henceforward.

THE decrease of four per cent. in the value of exports by sea from Calcutta during February was largely due to the smaller exports of indigo. Not only have prices much declined, but the total quantity exported this season to date has been much less. The value declined for the month by over a half crore. Tea also fell off by ten lakhs in value, and raw cotton, lac, opium, and saltpetre record a smaller trade. Indian twist shipments were less by nearly one million pounds. Among those staples showing an increased demand in the last month raw jute stands first. Exports were larger by over over one million cwt. Hides and skins rose in value by eighteen lakhs, and exports of grain and seeds were increased. Bullion shipments were small but rupees to Mauritius, Ceylon, and Bangkok valued ten lakhs; to the rice ports sixty-seven lakhs of rupees were shipped. To Indian ports larger despatches of both grain and coal were made.

THE position on the Frontier may be briefly summarised as follows:—The Rajgul Kuki Khels have paid up 60 out of 118 rifles, the Khambar Khels 64 of 154, and the Zakka Khels 20 of 154 rifles. At the earnest request of the sections that more time might be allowed the Zakka Khels to collect their fine General Lockhart gave the Kuki Khels and Kambar Khels up to last evening to either produce their rifles or hostages, who might be kept at Attock until the fines were produced. Failing their compliance in one of these respects he said he would advance on the 19th, and the blockade would be re-imposed on tribal sections who have already submitted. A havildar and three sepoy deserters of the Khyber Rifles, who recently came into Lundi Kotal bringing their rifles, reported that the Zakka Khels were doing their utmost to collect their share of the fine.

Two strange facts concerning the Frontier operations (writes a correspondent recently at the Front) have become known. "It seems that the Afridis, throughout the last months, have found a refuge for their wives and children, not in the inaccessible fastnesses of their own wild country, nor across the Afghan border under a Mohammedan King, but in our own cantonment town of Peshawar. This is an impressive sign of the tribesmen's confidence in the justice and gentle honour of our rule. The British Raj is no harasser of women and children. It even scornfully offers an asylum to those of its own enemies who desire it. When the Afridi clans fight kith against kin, the conquered get other treatment from fellow fanatics than that they now receive from that Power which their mullahs teach them to regard as the foremost upholder of unbelief and uncleanness. Moreover, it is now known that the recruiting of trans-frontier Pathans into our native regiments has been far greater during the last three months than it has been for many years— a fact which proves that, in spite of our having harassed their country, killed hundreds of their fighting men, destroyed their property, and exacted large fines of money and arms, their confidence in our justice, their knowledge of the good treatment they received in our ranks, but, above all, their belief in our strength, have greatly risen. The Pathan, like a good sportsman, bears no ill-will to a better man; he has thoroughly enjoyed all the fighting, secure in the knowledge that his women and children were safe, and that when his store of food became exhausted, and he came to the English General to submit, he would be welcomed as more than a friend. Perhaps he has had more sufferings and privations than he likes. His mullahs, he thinks, have told vain tales. The day of the Faith is not yet. Till such day shall come (as God and his Prophet have promised to believers) he will take service with the arch-heretics, where is pay and pensions and regularity in food and fighting."

A SHEFFIELD manufacturer wanted to send a telegram to China in code, but had it returned with an intimation that all messages to China must be written out in plain English. He had no intention of disclosing his business in that way. It occurred to him to try Germany. He sent the message to his agents in Berlin. They dispatched it under the Code to China, and received a reply in cipher. The saving in cost in telegraphing by code was 7l. 10s. The story is related in "The Hardware Trade Journal," on the authority of the sender of the message.

FROM Zurich comes an amusing story of the Law and the Italian. Sanitary inspectors, it appears, once found that the Italians in Zurich slept ten or twelve in a room. It was decided to inspect all the poorer quarters, and to put a stop to this state of things. "But," cried the Swiss democrats, "if you invade the house of the workman you must also visit the villas of the rich. We will not have one law for the rich and another for the poor." And this was done, all the many wealthy villas in Zurich being submitted to the same inspection to see how many slept in one room!

MESSRS. J. M. DENT AND CO. announce a "Book of Cats" drawn and written by Mrs. W. Chance, and containing between thirty and forty reproductions of that lady's pencil drawings. Mrs. Chance's work has been appearing during the past couple of years on the walls of the Academy and New Gallery, and in the pages of "The Studio."

MR. BAYARD has settled down to private life at Wilmington, Delaware, in the old Bayard homestead. An interviewer of a Boston paper found him helping to drag a big gravel roller across his yard, in an old Norfolk jacket and a soft felt hat. Mr. Bayard has been abused for his sympathy with England, but he is firmly convinced that there is no hostile feeling against England in the United States. He told his interviewer: "I have yet to find an American with a feeling of animosity toward the English people. I have yet to hear a specific reply to my statement that the disposition of the American people towards the English people is friendly. Whatever contradictions have been made have been of the vaguest character. I can understand men who might be interested in possible war contracts wanting to see us involved in trouble with some other nation. Such contracts are often very profitable. But I can say positively that there is no cause of umbrage between the two peoples—that there has been no difference between them which could not be adjusted on the basis of common reason and common fairness. If there was any such difference I should know it, for I was for four years at the head of all the foreign affairs of this Government, and for four years represented it in London." Mr. Bayard pointed out that the growth of the British Empire should unite rather than divide the two portions of the English-speaking race. Whatever advantages England may have received in regard to the opening up of countries to trade have been shared on equal terms with the rest of the world. "There has not been a port opened to the commerce of England, in the extension of the British Empire, which has not been as freely open to the trade of the United States. There has not been a place where an American could not go and engage in business without being asked what his nationality was. American trade has had every advantage of the extension of British trade around the world. This fact is too often overlooked by those who denounce John Bull as the grabber of land in all parts of the world."

MR. DARBYSHIRE's paper on "Theatre Exits" has one passage upon the ghastly subject of loss of life from fires in theatres that is not without its consolation. There is we are assured, a merciful swiftness in the fate of the sufferers whom the horrified imagination invariably pictures as subjected to the torture of burning alive. It is not often that any such torture is endured. Mr. Darbyshire does not include in his confident assurances such flimsy and quick-burning buildings as the one used for the Paris Charity Bazaar, but speaking generally he says that in a fire panic, in a threatre or in buildings used for public audiences, the loss of life is not owing to fire or to actual contact with flames, but to asphyxiation, or suffocation by inhaling the poisonous gases given off during conflagration. At Exeter, the poor creatures sitting in the gallery never left their seats, for when the cloud of poison burst from the stage it instantly ascended, envolped them, and left them sitting as at the play, but so many rows of ghastly corpses, instead of the merry human beings who had shortly before entered that theatre full of health and life. From this Exeter disaster two lessons are derived, one that no seat should be placed higher than the proscenium opening, and the other that means should be provided for the instant isolation of the stage from the auditorium.

THE following story about Tennyson was told to Sir M. E. Grant Duff by Mr. Kegan Paul, the latter's contemporary at Oxford, says the Diarist:—"As we walked through Richmond, he told me that it was in the church there that, on the occasion of Hallam's coming down to be godfather to Tennyson's eldest boy, the historian asked, 'What is to be the child's name?' 'Hallam,' answered the poet. 'I don't like surnames for Christian names," said the other" why not call him Alfred?' 'What if he were to turn out a fool?' was the reply," And here is a romantic anecdote about Browning, date, Feb. 7, 1880:—"At the Arthur Russell's to-night Browning told us that on a seven weeks' sailing voyage from London to Venice, undertaken in order that that place should burst suddenly upon him in all its beauty and strangeness, the brig in which he was fell in during a dead calm, with the wreck of a heavily-armed pirate or smuggler, off Tangiers. They boarded, and the crew remained at work all day, finding a rich cargo of silks and other things. The vessel had been manned by Moors, a number of whom were found dead below. Browning's share of the plunder was two swords and a dagger. At evening a breeze sprang up, the captain recalled his sailors, and the ghastly thing floated off to the westward, black against a golden sunset."

CHINA NEWS.

THE French Colonial papers take quite a warlike view of the situation. "Le Courrier de Saigon" thinks it very probable that there will be a war with France, Russia and Germany on one side and Britain and Japan, and possibly Italy on the other:—

It is reported from Vladivostock that the Russians have recently established a mint there for the coinage of silver roubles, but the new roubles will be different from those current in Russia, as one side of the new coin will have Chinese and Manchu characters, containing the name of the Czar Nicholas II., like the Chinese dollars which bear the name of the Emperor Kuang Hsu. It is understood that this special coinage is to be used for payments on account of the Russian railway in Manchuria.:—

The Deutsch-Asiatic Bank's portion of the new Chinese loan is reported to be already fully covered.

It is stated that the people inhabiting the Yangtse Valley have recently begun to quitely arm themselves, and that they are being gradually supplied with firearms from various influential sources.

The coal supply is now one of the most prominent questions regarding the situation in the Far East, and the British authorities, by a stroke of good management, have placed themselves in a position of perfect security, from which they can regard the anxious efforts of contemporary powers in their search for fuel. The Russians are paying a handsome figure for the coal supply to their fleet, and are experiencing great difficulty in bringing the supply up to the demand. Last week the Norwegian steamer "Pronto" cleared at Shanghai ostensibly for Nagasaki, but proceeded on her voyage to Port Arthur with a full cargo of Cardiff coal for the Russian fleet. This vessel has been chartered to make three runs to that port with two thousand tons of coal.

Over one hundred housses were destroyed by fire at Canton this week. The fire originated in a joss-paper shop, by a piece of live firewood igniting a heap of paper, while the shop people were at their meals.

There is much activity at the Naval Yard, with the arrival and despatch of men-of-war and the man-of-war anchorage is well filled with British, German, American and Russian ships. H. M. S. Firebrand has been put in commission, and it is rumoured that she will be despatched for Hainan. H.M.S. Archer, after completing her steam trials, suddenly left, clearing in an indefinite way for India. It is presumed that she has gone to Singapore. The Immortalite and torpedo boat destroyer Hart arrived from the Chusans on 3rd March. H.M.S. Centurion will arrive here to-morrow.

Prince Henry of Prussia is expected to arrive at Hongkong on the 8th inst. He is to land in his official capacity as Rear-Admiral, and will hold a reception at the German Club. At last meeting of the Legislative Council, H. E. Major-General Black, Acting Governor, intimated that he had received a telegram from the Secretary of State announcing that Sir Henry Blake, the new Governor, was to leave for Hongkong on or about 1st May. A long discussion took place at the meeting in regard to the scheme propounded by the Director of Public Works with regard to the erection of new Government offices. The scheme was ultimately adopted, Messrs. Chater and Whitehead voting against it.

A meetng of the Jubilee Committee was held on Tuesday, March, 1, when a letter was read from Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Medical Civil Officer, recommending the Committee to purchase 'Craigieburn,' at the Peak, for the purposes of the Hospital for Women and Children and the Nursing Institute. At this meeting a report was also submitted by the Director of Public Works regarding the progress of the surveys for the proposed Victoria Road round the Island. On 26th February the survey had been completed up to the sixth mile.

Another outbreak of rinderpest having occurred on the Dairy Farm Co.'s premises at Sassoon's Villa, the Sanitary Board has declared that portion of the farm an infected area, and ordered the slaughter of all animals suffering from the disease.—*China Mail* (March) ?

INDIAN VOLUNTEER RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

MATCH I.—Distances 200 and 500 yards. 7 shots at each.

	Total	Rs.
Cr-Sergt W Leach, O V R, Lucknow	66	40
Sergt J Jahans, E I R, Aligarh	63	25
Cr-Sergt W E Watson, B B and C I, Ajmere	63	10
Capt H Dale, V D, E I R, Cawnpore	62	10
Capt A Jenkins, E I R, Jamalpur	62	5
Sergt J E Kirby, N W R R, Kotri	62	5
Capt A W Bright, N W R R, Kotri	62	5
Lce-Corpl H Lear, B B and C I, Mhow	61	5
Cr-Sergt F Bwye, B B and C I Ajmere	61	5
Sergt-Major W L Harwood, 2nd C V R, Calcutta	61	5
Sergt W Finnigan, B B and C I, Mhow	61	3
Sergt W Dunn, E I R, Tundla	60	3
Sergt P Officer, N W R R, Karachi	60	3
Sergt W H Proctor, E C R V, Waltair	60	3
Capt F Raynor, 1st P V R, Lahore	60	3
Vol A D Green, N W R R, Kotri	60	2
Corpl H S Dunn, U B V R, Mogok	60	2
Sergt-Instr F Reixson, B B and C I, Mhow	59	2
Sergt-Instr R Miller, B B and C I Bandikui	59	2
Lieut W Davidson, B B and C I, Mhow	59	2
Sergt-Instr Todd, U B V R, Mandalay	59	2
Sergt W McDonnell, P V R C, Poona	59	2
Corpl G A Roach, O V R, Lucknow	59	2
Corpl J B Norton, 1st C V R, Calcutta	58	2
Sergt-Major F Hawkes, 1st P V R, Lahore	58	2

Seven 58's counted out. 25 Prizes, value, Rs. 150.

MATCH II.—Distance 600 yards 10 shots.

Capt H Dale, V D, E I R, Cawnpore	48	40
Corpl H S Dunn, U B V R, Mogok	46	25
Sergt E A Franklin, U B V R, Mandalay	46	10
Sergt J E Kirby, N W R R, Kotri	46	10
Capt A Jenkins, E I R, Jamalpur	46	5
Sergt E W Saxton, 1st C V R, Calcutta	46	5
Corpl E P Smith, E I R, Jamalpur	46	5
Sergt W Fleming, E I R, Jamalpur	45	5
Sergt E Murray, E I R, Aligarh	45	5
Vol P N Lenehan, E I R, Jamalpur	45	5
Qr-Mr-Sergt A Forsyth, P V R B, Calcutta	44	3
Vol F McCullagh, E I R, Jamalpur	44	3
Sergt G Porter, B B and C I, Ajmere	44	3
Sergt E Porter, B B and C I, Ajmere	44	3
Corpl F Dracott, B B and C I, Indore	44	3
Sergt G Cox, E I R, Jamalpur	43	2
Sergt W McDonnell, P V R C, Poona	43	2
Sergt A Johnstone, N W R R, Saharanpore	43	2
Cr-Sergt F Bwye, B B and C I, Ajmere	43	2
Vol E Bollard, E I R, Jamalpur	43	2
Sergt W Dunn, E I R, Tundla	42	2
Capt A W Bright, N W R R, Kotri	43	2
Capt F Raynor, 1st P V R, Lahore	43	2
Sergt-Major Harwood, 2nd C V R, Calcutta	42	2
Cr-Sergt H Hobbs, 1st C V R, Calcutta	42	2

Five 42's counted out. 25 Prizes, value Rs. 150.

W. L. HARWOOD,
S. M. 2nd C. V. R.

THE WEATHER.

OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 8 A.M., ON MONDAY THE 21st OF MARCH, 1898.

SUMMARY.

With the exception of a brisk fall at Jacobabad, Surat, Bombay and Lahore, the barometer has been steady or has changed only slightly over the whole country. The distribution is somewhat irregular and the baric gradients are moderately steep to slight. Winds are very variable in direction. The force has been fresh to strong at Bombay, Deesa, Delhi, Agra, Cawnpore, Allahabad and Belgaum and moderate to light elsewhere. This morning the wind velocity was 18 miles an hour at Deesa and Allahabad and 12 at Agra. The maximum temperature is in large to very large excess of the normal at Raipur, Masulipatam, Cuddapah, and Trichinopoly, and the minimum in large excess at Cuddapah. The highest temperature in the shade was 108° at Cuddapah and the lowest 48° at Lahore. Humidity changes are unimportant. The skies are partially clouded at Cuddapah and Madras. There has been no rain at any of the reporting stations. An area of abnormally low pressure is shown by the abnormal chart to exist over the greater part of the country lying to the south of latitude 20° and the weather there is in a slightly unsettled condition. Pressure is very high in Cutch and Lower Sind and moderate to strong northerly winds are likely to blow on and off the West Coast between Karachi and Cochin.

G. L. TOWERS,
Meteorological Reporter for Western India.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

SIMLA, MARCH 21.

Sunday.—The barometer has risen over the greater part of north-western and Central India and fallen elsewhere. The rise has been rapid to very rapid over the Punjab and the fall is brisk in the peninsula. Pressure is highest in west Punjab, Sind, and Gujarat and lowest over Bengal, where the barometer reads largely below the normal average. Wind is northerly over the Punjab, Rajputana, Gujarat and down the west coast as far as Ratnagiri, north westerly to westerly in the Gangetic Plain, southerly in Madras and Bengal coasts and variable elsewhere. The force is fresh to strong in north Bombay and some north-western stations. The temperature has fallen except in Madras and Burma the fall and the decrease having been rapid to very rapid over North-Western Provinces Punjab, Gujarat, Central India, Sind and Rajputana. Mean temperature is however still above the normal average except over north-west India. At Rajkote and Bhuj the heat is six degrees below normal and at Gorakpore, Patna, Gaya, Silchar and Bhamo six degrees above. The highest maximum reported is a hundred and six at Cuddapah. Light snow has fallen in Kashmir and trifling showers of rain in Rawalpindi, Peshawar, and Silchar.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

GOVERNMENT OBSERVATORY, COLABA.
Bombay, 20th March, 1898.
Means of observations taken at 6 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Barometer corrected 32 deg. Fah	inches	29·823
Temperature of the Air	degrees	81·1
Wet Bulb Thermometer		72·2
Dew Point		68·3
Relative humidity of Air		·651
Extent of cloudy sky (the whole sky clouded—10)		0·0
Maximum temperature of air (read at 8 a.m.) next day	degrees	88·0
Minimum do. do. (read at 8 a.m.)		74·0
General Directions of wind*		N, NW, NNW
Movement of Wind in 24 hours*	miles	379

* From midnight to midnight.

N. A. F. MOOS,
Director, Government Observatory.

HIGH-COURT.—APPELATE SIDE.

(Before the Hon. Mr. JUSTICE PARSONS and the Hon. Mr. JUSTICE RANADE)

A DISTRESSING CASE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE.

IMPARATRIX vs. WAGTI, WIFE OF RAMA.

THIS was a reference to this court by Mr. M. B. Tyabjee, Sessions judge of Thana, before whom the accused was charged with murder. The jury, by a majority of four, found the accused not guilty. The minority found the accused guilty of an attempt to murder. The Sessions judge, disagreeing with the verdict of the majority, and holding the accused guilty of an attempt to murder, submitted the proceedings for the orders of the High Court.

The accused was charged with having, on the 5th January last, committed murder by drowning her son, about eighteen moths old in a well; and with having, on the above date, attempted to commit suicide by getting herself drowned in the well. The accused was a young woman, and had a child about eighteen months old. She did not get on well with the female relations of her husband, who was absent from home for some time, and she had been living with her mother before the date of the offence. She and her mother were very poor, and must have lived a very uncomfortable life. Her mother had desired her to return to her husband's. On the date in question, desperation (personified by her into an evil spirit) drove her to a well, which appears not to have been in use at that time of the year. She placed the child on the parapet wall of the well, and threw herself into the well, intending to drown herself. Being able to swim, she was not drowned. She heard the child crying, and came up again, and then taking the child in her arm, again threw herself into the water. After she jumped, the child seemed to have slipped from her arm and dropped into the water. She could not drown herself. She waited till her son, who had been immersed, reappeared on the surface of the water, and then taking him out, she went into the village. The child died soon after. The accused was seen morning over her dead infant by her mother and the police patel. The best evidence against her was her confession setting forth the above facts. The medical evidence proved that the infant's death was due to drawning. It was alleged that the accused suffered from nervous fits. The accused's own statements and her mother's evidence showed that accused was not unconscious of what she was doing when she flung herself with her child from the parapet wall of the well. From the accused's confession, Mr. Tyabjee said, it might be gathered that the child slipped from her, grasp accidentally before she had touched water. It could not be said with certainty that, but for this accident, the accused would not have saved her son's life even at the last moment. It was, therefore, safe, Mr. Tyabjee said, to find her guilty of an attempt to murder, and to acquit her of murder. The Sessions Judge recommended that accused be convicted of an attempt to murder, and in view of this peculiar and distressing circumstances of the case, that she be sentenced to undergo two years' rigorous imprisonment. She had been sentenced to three months' simple imprisonment for the attempt to commit suicide.

Their lordships convicted the accused of the murder of her child and sentenced her to transportation for life. In view, however, of the painful circumstances of the case, the court sent it to Government in order that it may, if it think fit, exercise its prerogation of mercy in favour of the accused.

HIGH COURT.—MARCH 21.

(Before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice STRACHEY.)
Suits for hearing and final disposal.
Postponed Long Causes.

206-97—Mansuklal D and J—Ahmedbhoy Habibbhoy vs Jivraj Ladha—Thakurdas D and Co.
450—25768-96—R S Brown and Co—Henry Langford vs Hajee Cassum Joosub—Smetham B and N.
451—25769-96—R S Brown and Co—Edward Alfred King vs Hajee Cassum Joosub—Smetham B and N.

Testamentary Suits.

13-95—P R and Kolah, B and Kanga—Hajrabai widow and others vs Tyab Hajee Essa—Framjee M and M.
2-96—Bhaishunker and K—Shivshunker Ramshunker vs Ramshunker Atmaram—M N Sacklatwalla.
22-97—Matubai and J—Bhowanishunker Ruttonji and others vs Ramdas Thakersey Vusoonjee Thakersey—Payne G and S.
30-97—Chitnis M and M—Wasudew Moreshanker Patverdhan vs Janardhan Venayeck Josi—Dikshit and D.
4-98—Little and Co—Ladkibai widow vs Mahaluxmibai and others—Hiralal M and M.

(Before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. TYABJEE).
Suits for hearing and final disposal.
Postponed Long Causes.

668-96—Little and Co—Joaquim Salvador Rodrigues and others vs Pedro Pascoal Murzello and others—Daphtary and F.
669-96—Little and Co—Joseph Thomas D'Silva and others vs Domingos Francisco Murzello and others—Daphtary and F.

(Before the Hon'ble Mr JUSTICE FULTON.)
For Judgement on motion.

530-95—Thakurdas D and C—Baldevdas Sivlal and another vs Sankerdas Bansidhan—Shamrao and P

Suits for hearing and final disposal.
Short Causes.

422-97—Sorabjee and J—Roopchand Hookumchund and others vs Lieut H T Naylor and another—Crowford B and Co.
631-97—Janardhan and A—Haji Esmail Haji Allana and others vs Jamsetjee Nowrojee—Hiralal Mtand M.
685-97—Payne G and S—Aga Mahomed Hoosein Dedusti vs Hajee Mirza Mahomed Hoosein Dedusti.
708-97—Payne G and S—Abdool Hoosein Essabhoy vs Ermalljee Abdool Hoosein and others
52-98—Jehangir and S—Hurribhoy Hermoj and others vs Balvantrao alias Balkrishna.
58-98—Thakurdas D and C and H—Rahimtoola Dhunjee and others vs Suleman Cassum and another.
69-98—Framjee Dinsha—Bhujabhai Allarakhia and another vs Haym Samuel—Ardesir H and D
70-98—Edgelow and G—The Sirdars Carbonic Acid Inventions Syndicate Co Ld vs J Stanley Smith and another—Smetham B and Noble.
71-98—Janardhan and A—Framjee Burjorjee Lallee vs Willoughby Geyt—Captain and V.

For Investigation of Pauperism.

9-98—In person—Rughoonath Kessowjee vs Vullubdas Hemraj—M A Vakil—Part heard.
46-97—In person—Fatmabai vs Abdool Hoosein Kurrimbhai and others.

Postponed Long Causes.

594-97—Dikshit and D—Janobhoy Kuramchand vs Tyabali Jafferji—Framjee and D—Part heard.
239-96—Roughton and B—John William Ward vs The B B and C I Ry Co and another—Crawford B and Co and Dickshit and D.

MILITARY NEWS.

THE 12th Bengal Cavalry arrived at Peshawar on the 15th instant, in the course of relief.

A DETACHMENT of the 28th Punjab Infantry proceeds to Srinagar, to take over the duties of escort to the Resident.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVALS.—MARCH 19.

Browne, Capt, Bo, Remount Agent, on leave, from Ahmednagar
Dundas, Capt, Bo, on duty, from Aden
Cumberlege, Lt, 23rd Bo Rifles, from leave, from England
Raymond, Lt, 4th Bo Cavalry, from leave, from England
Tyler, 2nd Lt, Be, Durham L I, on duty, from England
Johnstone, Lt, XI Ms I, from furlough, from England

MARCH 21.

Hill, Lt, Punjab, 34th Pioneers, on medical certificate, from Jhelum

DEPARTURES.—MARCH 19.

Hogg, Lt Bo, late 2nd Baluchis, on duty, to Kolhapur
Cox, Surgn Lt, Bo, I M S, on leave, to Rawal Pindi
Dundas, Capt, Bo, I A S, on duty, to Poona
Cumberlege, Lt, 23rd Bo Rifles, from leave, to Nasirabad
Raymond, Lt, 4th Bo Cavalry, from leave, to Sirur
Oniell, Major, Bengal, R H A, on leave, to England
Tregear, Major Genl, Bengal, S C, to England

MARCH 20.

Wallentine, Major, Bengal, York and L Regt, on duty, to Agra.

MARCH 21.

Willoughby, Capt, Bengal, 2nd Lancers, to rejoin, to Meerut

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY COLONEL R. S. BROWN, V. D., COMMANDING B. V. R.
Bombay, 22nd March, 1898.

1. The Annual Inspection of the Corps by General Officer Commanding, will take place on Saturday next the 26th instant. Fall in at the Gymkhana end of the parade ground at 4-15 p.m.
Dress—Review order—Khaki.
Every member who is not on leave is required to be present or to furnish a medical certificate.
2. Candidates for proficiency certificates will parade at 6-30 a.m. to-morrow (Wednesday) the 23rd instant at the Gymkhana end of the parade ground. Dress—Drill order—Khaki.
3. Rifles brought to Head-quarters by members, will be cleaned and re-issued to them within a few minutes after receipt.

By Order,
C. MOSS, Captain,
Adjutant, B. V. R.

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY MAJOR G. W. ROUGHTON, A.D.C., COMMANDING B. V. A.
Bombay, 22nd March, 1898.

1. There will be class firing at Cooria on Wednesday Thursday, and Friday. Train leaves Victoria Terminus at 6 a.m., and Byculla 6-12 a.m. (local time).
2. Members who have not yet fired their class are particularly requested to do so at an early date as the season closes on the 31st instant.
3. The following Garrison Order No. 336 of the 28th February 1898, is published for information.—A Board composed as under will assemble at the Town Hall Compound, at 6-45 a.m., on Saturday the 26th instant to examine candidates of the B. V. A. proficiency certificates.
President—Major A H Callwell, R A.
Members—Capt Coxhead, R A, and Lt A J Peile, and Lt, R A, Adjt B V A.
Candidates will parade on Saturday next the 26th instant at 6-30 a.m. at the Town Hall Compound. Dress—Drill order with arms.
4. There will be class firing at Cooria on Saturday afternoon the 26th instant. Trains leave Victoria Terminus at 3 and 3-30 p.m. (local time) and Byculla 12 minutes later in each case.

By Order
A. J. PEILE, Lieut. R.A.,
Adjutant B. V. A.

Rowland's Macassar Oil prevents hair falling off or turning grey, cleanses it from scurf and dandruff, and makes it beautifully Soft, pliable, and glossy. It is the best Brilliantine, contains no mineral ingredients, can be had in a golden colour for fair hair, and is most exquisitely perfummed. Sold by Chemists and Drug Stores. Avoid spurious imitations, and buy none but Rowland's.

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The Scale for these Advertisements is as follows :—Not exceeding 3 lines, Re. 1, each succeeding line, As. 8. No Trade Advertisements are admitted under this Scale.

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DEATHS FROM CHOLERA:—Municipality of Bombay, Superintendent, Water Works, Chinchpokli, 29th Oct. 97. Memo. No. 1738—55 a of 1897-98:—Many of my workmen residing in the Municipal Chawl at Chinchpokli were attacked by Cholera and they have been SAVED by Batliwalla and Co.'s "CHOLERAL." There was not a single case of failure. I wish it should have still more wider circulation. . . . . As for Batliwalla's Ague Mixture or Pills no more Testimonials are required, when they are used with success for the Staff of the Bombay Municipality "Bombay Gazette," "Times of India," "Advocate of India," &c., &c. Sold by Chemists and Druggists at Re. 1 per Bottle, or sent by Dr. Batliwalla, Worli, Dadar, Bombay. Discount to the Trade.

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OVERLAND SUMMARY, published Weekly on the Departure of English Mail, 28 pages of the Pall Mall Budget size, containing all the information of the previous week, carefully arranged, Army Orders, &c, Indian Subscription, Rs, 12 per year, free of Postage, English Subscription, Rs. 15 per year, including Postage.

FIRE and BURGLAR PROOF SAFES.—American, Austrian, Millners, Chubb's, Lords, Nagur's, & Co.'s Detector Locks, Cash Box, Despatch Box, &c.—NAGUR and Co., 28, Apollo Street.

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His Excellency The Governor's Band.
2. Song..........The Old Old Story..........Blumenthal
Madame HOWARD.
3. Violin Solo.......9th Concerto..........Berit.
Madame KOENIG.
4. Organ Recital ...Lieder ohne Woote..........Mendelssohn
Largo..........Handel.
Mr. MANT.
5. Song..........The Holy City..........Adams.
Madame HOWARD.
6. Orchestra.......Waldes Fleisten..........Czitsulka.
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BOMBAY PLAGUE RELIEF FUND.

AN APPEAL.

THE most acute distress and want are now prevailing in the city owing to the ravages of the plague.

In many instances all the bread-winners of families have been cut off and only helpless women and little children remain. The effects of the plague from this point of view are far more disastrous than those of famine.

A fund has accordingly been opened with a view to supplying those in want with money, food or clothing, as the case may be, and donations are earnestly solicited.

Contributions may be forwarded to the Municipal Commissioner, or Mr. Ghellabhai Haridas, Bank of Bombay, who has kindly consented to act as treasurer to the fund, the distribution of which will be supervised by Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Weir and Mr. J. Leask, in consultation with the Commissioner.

P. C. H. SNOW,

Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay.

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HAND-BOOK OF GIRAS AND GUARANTEE,

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 21.

OWING to the "Jamshed-i-Naoroz" holiday, the local markets have been closed to-day.

The Receipts of Produce into Bombay yesterday were as follows :—

Cotton	11,418 bales.
Wheat	8,945 cwts.
Linseed	6,178 "
Rapeseed	1,493 "
Gingellyseed	3,013 "
Castorseed	1,466 "
Rice	9,976 "

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

THE B I S N Co's s s Palns, 1,164 tons Captain F Packham, arrived in harbour yesterday from Busreh 13th March in ballast and Miss Sefton as a passenger.

THE s s North Sands, 2,252 tons, Captain A Hughson, arrived in harbour yesterday from Cardiff (19th February,) with a cargo of 4,251 tons of coal. The vessel is consigned to Messrs James Mackintosh and Co.

THE B I S N Co's s s Canara, 1,216 tons, Captain E Stabb, will sail to-day for Zanzibar, &c. via Aden with a general cargo, and the following passengers—Mr E J Tydeman, Mr Cursetjee Sorabjee, Mr G Giles Mr. R. D. Talati and 65 deck.

THE B I S N Co's s s Kola, 497 tons, Captain J W Livingstone, will sail to-day for Karachi, via Kathiawar Coast ports, with a general cargo and the following passengers. Mr P J Crobett, Store Sergt. and Mrs R. Walker, and three children and 65 deck.

THE Wilson Line s s Mikado, 2,303 tons, Captain C Rayward, which arrived in harbour on the 19th instant, from Hull 18th February, brought a general cargo, and the following passengers.—Mr. and Mrs. Renfrew and two childrne, and Miss Peters. The Vessel is consigned to Messrs. Finlay Muir and Co.

THE P and O Co's s s Coromandel, 2,783 tons, Captain F. N. Tillard, which arrived in harbour on Sunday evening from China, via Colombo, with Her Majestys China and Australian Mails a general cargo, and the following passengers—Mr R S Mogra, Mr. H. M. H. Nemazee, Mr. R. Pansonby, Mr. E. H. Hatch, M. P., Hon. J Mansfield and 10 deck.

VESSELS IN DOCKS.—MARCH 21.

PRINCE'S DOCK.

Shd.	Vessels.	Ton.	Capt.	Destination.	Date.*	Agents.
B	Othello	3327	Rogers	N F	24-3	F M & Co
D	Ras Elba	1769	Moore	Genoa		W& A G & Co
F	Matsuyama Maru	1959	Niru	Kobe	26-3	N Y Kaisha
G	Henley	1469	Craggs	Genoa		J M & Co
H & J	Den of Airlie	2275	Singer	Karachi	24-3	Bo Co
K	Aphrodite	2568	Morgan	Dunkirk	24-3	W& A G & Co
L	Sabarmati	524	Fakeera	N F		S & Co
L	Brahamani	524	Cassum	N F		S & Co
M	Singapore	2432	Pezarello			N G Italiana
M	Afghan	1439				
N	Bq Pawady	458	Junghans	Mauritius		V E & Co
P	Elton	1596	Ramsay			J M & Co
Q	Canara	1216	Staff	Zanzibar	22-3	M M & Co
30 tons Crane	Mikado	2306	Pickering	Hull		F M & Co

HARBOUR WALL.

Bahaduri	829	Adum	Karachi	22-3	S & Co

VICTORIA DOCK.

Shd.	Vessels.	Ton.	Capt.	Destination.	Date.	Agents.
1	Australia	2192	Tait	Liverpool	1-4	W& A G & Co
6	Candia	4195	Wright	China	23-3	P & O Co
7	Trieste	3203	Mates	China	26-3	A L S N Co
8	Imperatrix	2353	Rasovich	Trieste	1-4	A L S N Co
10	Caledonia	3529	Andrews	London	26-3	P&O S N Co
12	Blue Cross	1994	Storm	Liverpool	27-3	Bo Co
14	Obra	5456	Brown	N F		M M & Co
15	Brindisi	2266	Watkins			P & O S N Co
16	Courland	760	Lenton	Natal	25-3	D A & Co

MEREWETHER DRY DOCK.

Letimbro	2202 tons gross	N G Italiana
Kalanadi	255 tons gross	S & Co

*Probable date of departure.

Time Ball drops at Prince's Dock at Noon, or Greenwich meantime, 7h. 8m. 44·3s.

The Time Ball over the Clock Tower at the Bombay Castle continues to be dropped regularly at 1 p.m. of Colaba mean time, or 8h. 8m. 44·30 of Greenwich meantime.

ARRIVALS.

Mar.	Vessel.	Commander.	From.
21	Patna s	Packham	Busreh, March 13
	North Sands s	Hughson	Cardiff, Feb 19
	R I M S Dalhousie.	Warden	Mombassa, March 10

DEPARTURE.

Mar.	Vessel.	Commander.	Destination.
21	Naseri s	Raffie	Jeddah, &c

The following vessels obtained their port clearances yesterday :—
Steamer Kola, Livingstone, for Karachi, etc.
" Canara, Stabb, for Zanzibar, etc.

The following vessels entered for loading yesterday :—
Steamer Mikado, for London, Hull, etc.
" Kt. Bachelor, for Marseilles.
" Patna, for Persian Gulf.

DAILY EXPORTS.—MARCH 21.

FOR LIVERPOOL.

Blue Cross s—563 cwt myrabollams David Sassoon and Co, 90 bales wool. T Jeewandas.

Australia s—4,000 cwts bone meal Rahimtoola Kaderbhoy, 2,017 cwts myrabollams Ebjee Oomersey, 2,100 cwts linseed cake Glade and Co, 240 cwt coir yarns, Banchorlas Khetsee and Co.

FOR LONDON.

Fitzpatrick s—31 bales skins and hides W and A Graham and Co, 12 bales woollen carpets Hajee S Lalljee and Co, 123 cwts turmeric Muncherjee Framjee, 22 cwt fishmaws, Rahimtoola Dhunjee and Co, 44 bales hides A Abdoola and Co, 15 bales hides Pestonjee Eduljee and Co, 79 bales skins and hides Muncherjee Shapoorjee and Co, 115 bales skins, H M Abba, 116 bales skins and hides, Hajee Oosman Hajee Hassom, 195 3-4 cwt dry ginger, M J Joomabhoy and Co, 111 cwt dry ginger, Sewjee Ramjee.

FOR GLASGOW.

Australia s—2,010 cwt bonemeal, Mooljee Jamal.

FOR HAVRE.

Fitzpatrick—150 bales cotton, E Spinner and Co.

FOR HULL.

Othello s—4,000 cwt castor seed, Finlay Muir and Co.

FOR ST. PETERSBURG.

Othello s—2,000 cwt castor seed, Finlay Muir and Co.

FOR DUNKIRK.

Aphrodite s—2,000 bales cotton, 700 cwt poppyseed Ralli Brothers, 900 cwt rapeseed, P Jairam.

FOR ANTWERP.

Elton s—3,624 cwt gingellyseed, 201 cwt mustardseed A Blascheck and Co, 3,999 cwts castorseed, Nansee Khairaz and Co, 540 bales cotton, E Spinner and Co, 250 bales hemp M Toolseedas.

FOR MARSEILLES.

Kt Bachelor s—7,000 cwt castorseed 1,500 cwt mowraseed 5,021 cwt linseed 1004 cwt rapeseed 999 cwt rapeseed, 999 cwt teelseed 3,500 cwts wheat Ralli Brothers. 4000 cwt wheat 2,001 cwt groundnuts 4,302 cwt gingellyseed, Finlay Muir and Co.

FOR GENOA.

Henley s—2000 cwt wheat 2001 cwt linseed John Fachiri, 4,002 cwt linseed Finlay Muir and Co, 1,004 cwt rapeseed 2,009 cwt linseed, 6,999 cwt teelseed, Ralli Brothers, 100 bales cotton Gaddum and Co, 300 bales cotton, E Spinner and Co.

Singapore s—1335 cwt gingellyseed John Fachiri, 100 bales cotton, E Spinner and Co.

Ras Elba s—300 bales cotton, Volkart Brothers, 4,000 cwt wheat A Blascheck and Co.

FOR MESSINA.

Singapore s—2,000 cwts wheat, John Fachiri.

FOR LEGHORN.

Singapore s—100 bales cotton, E Spinner and Co.

FOR TRIESTE.

Imperatrix s—990 bales cotton, and 1,000 cwt linseed. A Blascheck and Co; 1,000 cwt myrabollams, and 495 bales cotton, Volkart Brothers; 770 bales cotton, Glade and Co—220 bales cotton, E Spinner and Co.

FOR VENICE.

Imperator s—500 bales cotton, Lyon and Co; 200 bales cotton Volkart Brothers; 500 bales cotton, Glade and Co.

FOR HONGKONG.

Letimbro s—100 bales cotton, Hajee Adum Esmail and Co; 60 cwts khismis, Abdool C Esmalljee; 150 cwt ooplate, 140 cwt sharkfins, 27 cwt fishmaws, and 500 bales twist, E Ebrahim and Co; 110 cwt fennelseed, M M Essabhai; 25 bales twist, Silas E Sasson; 300 bales twist, P F Talati; 200 bales twist, David Sassoon and Co.

Trieste s—350 bales twist. Framjee Sons and Co.

Matsaya Maru s—247 cwt sandalwood, Yan Shun and Co.

FOR SHANGHAI.

Letimbro s—60 bales twist, Cursetjee Bomanjee and Co; 50 bales twist, Silas E Sassoon; 300 bales twist, David Sassoon and Co.

Candia s—12 chests opium, Nassurbhoy Cassombhoy and Co.

Matsaya Maru s—600 bales twist, Sassoon J David and Co.

FOR KOBE.

Trieste s—550 bales cotton, Ralli Brothers.

Candia s—400 bales cotton, Ralli Brothers, 810 bales cotton, Tata and Co.

Brindisi s—500 bales cotton, Ralli Brothers.

Matsaya Maru s—600 bales cotton, The Matsui B Kaisha.

FOR YOKOHAMA.

Matsaya Maru s—100 bales cotton, The Mitsui B Kaisha.

Brindisi s—100 bales cotton, Ralli Brothers.

FOR NAGASAKI.

Matsaya Maru s—300 bales cotton, The Mitsui B Kaisha.

FOREIGN TELEGRAPHIC SERVICE.

Latest dates of Foreign Messages received at Bombay from the United Kingdom during the 24 hours ending at 8 p.m., of the 21st March 1898.

[Difference in Longitude allowed for.]

Via.	Latest Dates. D.	H.	M.	Time occupied in transmission. Hours.	Minutes
Turkey	..	...	..	...	..
Teheran	21	2	31 p.m.	...	29
Suez	21	3	34 p.m.	...	5

Time occupied in the transmission of messages to Bombay during the 24 hours ending 8 p.m., of the 21st March 1898.

—	Maximum Time. H.	M.	Minimum Time. H.	M.
From Calcutta	3	13	...	1
" Karachi	0	58	...	1
" Madras	0	29	...	1

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

BOMBAY.

BIRTH.

DIMMOCK—March 19, at St. Vincents, Malabar Hill, the wife of Surgeon-Major H. Peers Dimmock, I. M. S., of a son.

DEATH.

SPENCER—March 18, at St. George's Hospital, Agnes Jane, second daughter of the late John Frederick Spencer.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

BIRTHS.

BEATSON—March 11, at Wardha. C P, the wife of H R Beatson, Police Department, of a son.
COVENTRY—March 15, at Dalsing Sarai, Tishoot, the wife of Bernard Coventry, of a daughter.
KENYON—March 17, at the Telegraph Buildings, Calcutta, the wife of E A Kenyon, of a son.
MARCOOLYN—March 13, at Simla, the wife of H J Marcoolyn, of a daughter.
MORISON—March 14, at Aligarh, Mrs Theodore Morison, of a daughter.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** ALL communications intended for publication in our columns, should be addressed to the Editor and not to any individual member of the staff.

The Bombay Gazette

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1898.

FOR the second consecutive year Sir James Westland had to announce a considerable deficit of revenue in the statement he laid before the Imperial Legislative Council yesterday. Twelve months ago the surplus estimated in the Budget had been turned to a deficit; this time the want of equilibrium between revenue and expenditure had been predicted, though not to the full extent, the total loss on the year's account, 528 lakhs, being more than double the estimated figure of the previous Financial Statement. The causes of the unsatisfactory nature of the balance-sheet are twofold, the first and foremost being the disturbances on the North-West Frontier, entirely unforeseen when the Budget was presented a year ago, costing nearly four crores of rupees, and next an increase of the estimated outlay connected with the Famine to the extent of 175 lakhs. Excluding these two heads of extraordinary outlay the revenue has been 80 lakhs larger, and the expenditure nearly two crores smaller than the estimates. The latter improvement is put down in the accounts to the rate of exchange having been at a higher average than was estimated. This enhancement was due to the temporary suspension and subsequent contraction of Council drawings. The average rate at which Government transactions have been conducted, originally estimated at fifteen pence, has been no less than 15 3-8d., and the average for the twelve months to which the Budget presented yesterday relates has been taken at this rate. As it is five-eighths of a penny below the sixteen-penny level, it follows that the Budget contains no definite proposal for fixing exchange. All that Sir James Westland could say upon this important point was that the views of the Government of India have been forwarded to the Secretary of State, and also copies of Mr. Allan Arthur's address to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the representation made by the Bombay Chamber. The confident assurance of Sir James that "Her Majesty's Government will give the subject their early attention" is reflected in the decision to take this year's exchange rate of 15 3-8d as the basis of transactions for the next twelve months. The Finance Minister admits that the high rate has been due to the contraction of the drawings of Council Bills from thirteen millions sterling to £8,700,000. This contraction has left a deficiency which even with the loan arrangements proposed will not permit of a continuance of the policy of deferring payment of Home charges. Hence the estimated drawings for 1898-99 amount to sixteen millions sterling. One of the adventitious aids to the maintenance of a fairly high rate of exchange which has existed during the last twelve months will, therefore, disappear, but the fact that the estimated rate has not been lowered indicates that the Government of India anticipate that they will receive from the Home Government permission to legislate with a view to obtaining fixity of exchange before many months are passed. In view of the very injurious effects upon trade of the existing uncertainty, it may be hoped that the urgency of the need for legislation has been pressed upon the Cabinet by Lord Elgin and his Councillors.

The belief that the next few months will see the initiation of definite measures for obtaining fixity of exchange is further strengthened by the intention announced in the Budget to raise a loan of three crores of rupees in India. The long-continued tightness in the money market shows no present signs of abatement, and there will have to be a very marked change in the situation before a loan of three crores can be floated with any prospect of success, so that it is quite conceivable that Government may contemplate that measures for the obtainment of the gold standard will have been taken before the loan is floated. It is significant that no indication is given of the rate at which the loan will be raised. The diminished Council drawings this year have necessitated an addition to the temporary gold debt of five millions sterling, which together with one million sterling previously incurred is to be renewed. Discharges of permanent debt are to be made to the amount of £3,384,700, but as additions are proposed to the extent of six millions sterling, the increase of India's liabilities will be £2,615,300 in England and three crores in India. This is a sufficiently heavy addition to a debt, which amounts to 123 million pounds sterling in England, and nearly 112 crores in India, exclusive of Savings Bank Balances, amounting to 10 1-2 crores. Hence we are glad to find that the warning first raised in these columns some months ago, against adhering in times of special financial stress to the ambitious programme of railway construction on which Lord Elgin had set his heart has not gone unheeded. The estimated expenditure on the "programme" for the closing year was over ten crores of rupees, but when it was decided to ask the Secretary of State to suspend his drawings, it was also decided to reduce the expenditure on railway construction by one crore of rupees—a reduction which under the circumstances certainly did not err on the side of excessiveness. However, it is an ill wind that blows no one good, and the engineers' strike at home by causing a partial stoppage of supplies forced upon Government a further curtailment of 71 lakhs. For the ensuing year also the programme is to be curtailed, as Government have come to the very sound conclusion that "the strain through which the country has passed during the past two years renders it inadvisable to raise money at the rate which was contemplated before the famine and the Frontier war were within their calculations." Even as it is, however, the programme for the year will cost 1,083 lakhs of rupees, making an average of 862 lakhs for the two years. It is noteworthy that the increase in the sterling debt to be made during 1898-99 is directly due to this outlay.

The loans to be raised both in England and in this country are on account of capital expenditure not charged to revenue, as the estimates for the ensuing year show a surplus of 89 lakhs of rupees. This is smaller balance than was anticipated when it became known that crop prospects for the current season were exceptionally good. The land revenue is estimated to be two crores of rupees in excess of that collected this year, but against this the full grant of one and a-half crores of rupees has to be made to the Famine Insurance Fund. It must be admitted that after a period of scarcity which, according to Sir James Westland's estimate has cost the State directly and indirectly at least 14½ crores of rupees (exclusive of suspensions of land revenue amounting to 185 lakhs), the allocation of the full grant to the Insurance Fund is called for. A sum nearly equal to this grant is set aside in the estimates for the continuance of military operations on the frontier. This provision is regarded as needful, since a small section of the tribes have still to complete their final submission and compliance with terms. Sir James Westland, however, is evidently hopeful that no renewal of hostilities will be necessary, in which case the expenditure will be confined to the terminal charges involved in the return of the troops to cantonments and the breaking up of the force, and the cost of keeping the outpost garrison at a greater strength than usual until the Frontier has quite settled down. The increase in the pay of the British soldier decided upon by the Home Government as an aid to recruitment will of course apply to the soldiers serving in India, and this will cost the country next year twenty lakhs of rupees. But as a set-off the ordinary army charges have been reduced by the higher exchange, the saving of grain compensation, and various economies. It may be noted that an increase of nearly twelve lakhs in the expenditure under the head of "Medical" for the ensuing year is ascribed to "the measures to be taken for the repression and prevention of the spread of plague in all Provinces, but especially in Bombay," but the Budget contains no indication of the intentions of the Government of India in regard to the claims of the Bombay Municipality for a more liberal grant towards plague expenditure than that indicated in the correspondence published in these columns some weeks since. The cost of the plague to the Imperial Exchequer up to the end of this year is put down at 28½ lakhs, of which amount 23 lakhs has been expended in this Presidency. The Budget statement does not afford pleasant reading, but there is good reason to share the hope expressed by Sir James Westland, that the financial position for the year about to open will be "a reflection of times of returning peace and prosperity."

THE misfortunes which pursued Major Macdonald's expedition extended to the furthest frontier of Uganda, and, sad to relate, brought trouble into the German sphere of influence in a very unexpected way. Papers published by the Foreign Office to a certain extent dissipate the mystery which shrouded the origin and purpose of the military expedition and throw some light on its chequered history. On June 9, Lord Salisbury set forth in much detail the instructions for the guidance of the chief of the expedition. Her Majesty's Government having decided that it was desirable to obtain an accurate knowledge of the territories lying to the north and east of the East African and Uganda Protectorate, resolved to send an expedition, to explore the districts adjacent to the Italian sphere in which the river Jubra is supposed to have its source, and to cultivate friendly relations with the tribes inhabiting the British sphere. Major Macdonald was selected for the command because of his experience in Uganda, and on the survey of the Railway, the Secretary of State for India concurring in the selection. This expedition for the acquisition of useful knowledge was, however, to be made strong enough "for all defensive purposes," as the disposition of the frontier tribes towards Europeans was "uncertain." It was to consist of five or six hundred Swahilis, fifty Sikhs, several Maxim guns, and three hundred Soudanese veterans who had done good service, and were known in those parts as the Uganda rifles. Captain Woodward was to be second in command and to take charge if Major Macdonald were disabled through illness or accident. For transport purposes and economy, the expedition on leaving Mombassa was to take the new road as far as the point where it would be necessary to turn northwards towards Lake Baringo, where it would be joined by a contingent of Soudanese troops from Uganda. The Major was then to select the best route in the direction of Lake Rudolf, make a careful survey as he marched, and explain to the tribes the nature of the work entrusted to him and the position of the Government in the British sphere generally. He was to carefully avoid any step likely to bring about a collision and to maintain strict discipline among the troops. He was, moreover, to report to the Foreign Office from time to time, and also to the Commissioners in Uganda and East Africa; but he was left full discretion as to the manner in which the expedition should be conducted. The instructions which provided for so much made no provision for what happened, with the result that the expedition that left Mombassa spent most of its time fighting or watching the contingent from Uganda and ultimately had to abandon all thought of reaching Lake Rudolf—or the Nile, probably its real destination—and had to right about face to retrieve the situation in Uganda.

Trouble never anticipated in the Foreign Office was already brewing. A fortnight after the despatch of these instructions, Lord Salisbury was informed by Major Ternan that Mr. G. Wilson in charge at Kampala, the administrative capital of Uganda, that it had been found necessary to arrest two chiefs and bring them to trial on a charge of inciting the people to rebel at the instigation of an ambitious chief, named Gabriel, who had been remanded by the native court for complicity in a case of manslaughter. Gabriel escaped, and the incident caused excitement. Arrangements for sending troops and arms to Major Macdonald were, however, pushed on. Mr. Wilson reported that "there was no reason to suppose there would be any trouble." Then suddenly on the 9th July Mwanga left Mengo, the old capital, in a canoe. Apparently he had been implicated in the conspiracy. He obtained the support of the chiefs and people in Buddu, and took the field. Major Ternan thought the opportunity a good one for deposing Mwanga, and he proposed that his son, of the mature age of two years, should be proclaimed King of Uganda, with three chiefs as regents during his minority. On the 20th July, Major Ternan attacked and defeated the rebels, and when Mwanga heard of the disaster, he crossed the Anglo-German boundary-line, and gave himself up to Herr von Wulffen. Major Ternan reported to Lord Salisbury that he had written a friendly note to the German Administrator, stating that as Mwanga had passed the frontier, he had nothing further to do with him, but that he would take it as a friendly act towards Her Majesty's Government if the German authorities would prevent Mwanga's return to British territory until arrangements were made by the respective Governments in Europe as to his extradition or otherwise. The energetic Major also reported that "the rising is now completely quelled and if the Germans will keep Mwanga in their territory, no further trouble on anything like a large scale is to be anticipated." Lord Salisbury approved of the proposal, and placed Mwanga's son on the throne. The little Prince Chua was publicly proclaimed King of Uganda on August 14, and all Mwanga's property was confiscated for his benefit. The German authorities were asked to fix Mwanga's residence as far as possible from the Uganda frontier. A proclamation was issued to the chiefs, telling them that "the country has now a clear start; the enemy has opprobriously been driven away, and nothing now stands in the way of a steady advance." The chiefs were urged to make a great effort to develop the resources of the country, but attention was soon diverted to the mutiny of the Soudanese when ordered to join Major Macdonald's column.

THE following is a summary of the Budget Statement of 1898-99 presented at yesterday's Legislative Council :—The rate of Exchange at which estimates are worked out is fifteen and three-eighths pence, and after meeting five crores thirty-nine lakhs for famine relief, and three crores eighty-two lakhs for the Frontier War, the accounts for past year are expected to close with a deficit of five crores twenty-eight lakhs. The Budget estimates for 1898-99 at the same rate provide for the payment of one crore fifty lakhs to the famine grant, one crore forty-nine lakhs for continuance of war expenditure and twenty lakhs for new pay conditions of the British soldiers, and after meeting these charges show a surplus of eighty lakhs without any changes in taxation. The Secretary of State intends to raise six million sterling permanent debt of which £3,380,000 is required for the discharge of debentures. He will also renew the six million sterling outstanding temporary debt and draw for sixteen million sterling Council bills. In India it is intended to raise a rupee loan of three crores. The question of currency policy is not discussed in the Statement, but Sir J. Westland reviews the finance of the past twenty years and concludes therefrom that he is warranted in repeating and enforcing Sir John Strachey's deprecation of assistance from the English exchequer.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL VENTRIS, Commanding the Bombay District, proceeds home on leave on the 16th of April next.

WE regret to learn that Sardar Jasingrao Angre, Sur-Suba of Baroda, in the Gaekwari capital, died suddenly on Sunday last. He was a first class Sirdar of the Deccan.

YESTERDAY, Mr. J. Sanders-Slater, Chief Presidency Magistrate, committed Bhagwandin Badal and two other rioters to the next Criminal Sessions of the High Court for rioting and causing grievous hurt to Constable Cauty. The Magistrate then discharged two prisoners, who, with another man, were charged with rioting, as Mr. Little, the Public Prosecutor, expressed his intention of not leading evidence against them. The case against Taj Mahomed Hassan and 19 others, for rioting and assaulting Mr. Glazebrook and Constable Murray, was taken up next, but was not concluded when the court rose for the day. Two prisoners, however, were discharged for want of identification.

THE Royal Indian Marine steamer Dalhousie, Commander St. L. S. Warden, arrived in harbour yesterday from Mombassa, which port she left on the 10th instant, with eight followers of the 4th Bombay Rifles.

THE Royal Indian Marine steamer Clive, will arrive here on the 29th instant, with the 9th Lancers for Sialkote from Durban.

MR. F. ATKINSON, writing in the "Englishman" on the currency question, says :—Whatever her detractors may say to the contrary, India is in truth one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Her natural resources are almost unlimited, her soil and climate are peculiarly well suited for the several important products in which she holds a monopoly, her labour is cheap and plentiful, her system of agriculture is primitive and therefore cheap, but at the same time very effective, her people are tractable, and ordinarily perfectly contented her stores of the precious metals exceed those of any other country in the world, and her power to attract these metals in itself proves that she is very far from being in that insolvent condition she is generally assumed in England to be. If she really was in such a condition the objection would unquestionably hold good, and a gold standard with either gold or a silver currency would be equally impossible, but as her financial position is as sound as any nation in the world, the fact of her being a gold debtor country only increases her obligations, but does not prevent her meeting them without affecting her balance of trade provided that those obligations represent a fixed amount in the currency of the country. What India requires is a fixity of exchange in her dealings with the countries with which the bulk of her trade is carried on, and capital to develop her resources, because owing to the peculiar economic ideas of the people of the country the enormous stores of precious metals already in it cannot be classed as capital. A fixity of exchange would necessarily be followed by a flow of capital into the country, which would develop her resources, and thereby increase her trade, which would resolve itself into an increase in exports, and the mere fact of fixity of exchange would therefore prove a powerful factor in producing a favourable balance of trade quite apart from any methods of correction for any redundancy of the currency. Provided sufficient capital is employed, the question of a balance of trade is in reality a question of rupee prices; and the question of prices is one of supply and demand and cost of production.

THERE are numerous anecdotes about the Breakfast Club, of which Mr. Froude and Lord Dufferin were two of the leading members. At a meeting of the Club in the summer of 1875 the second named amused the company by telling them he "had once seen a play in Paris, which turned on the adventures of his great-grandfather Sheridan, and in which the denouement consisted in the hero's carrying off the object of his affections from a back window in Bond-street in a gondola. He mentioned also that Disraeli, talking to him the other day about the changes that had taken place since he went away had said: 'I once asked a Governor-General, as I have asked you just now, what changes he had observed on his return to London, and his reply was, "I have come back to a fatter world."' The Governor-General was Lord Ellenborough.

ANOTHER new monthly is announced. This is "St. Peter's," described in the prospectus as an illustrated Catholic family magazine. Among those who have promised to contribute to the new venture are Katharine Tynan, Mrs. Maxwell Scott, Lady Herbert of Lea, Mrs. Meynell, Mis Rosa Mulholland, Mr. F. C. Burnand, the Rev. R. F. Clark (of the Society of Jesus), the well-known historical writer Dr. Gasquet (of the Order of St. Benedict,) Mr. Clement Scott. "St. Peter's will of course contain religious and historical articles written from the Roman Catholic point of view. But evidently its projectors mean to make the best of both worlds. The interviewer, that queer product of the modern day, will have his fling in it with English and Irish celebrities. "St. Peter's" will possess the attiributes of the best monthly periodicals." Competitions and prizes, dress, needlework will figure in it. Vanitas vanitatum. But you must be in the swim.

TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

THE TALIENWAN QUESTION.

LONDON, MARCH 20.

The Chinese have offered to lease Talienwan to Russia and to allow the Railway there, provided Port Arthur remains Chinese.

LATEST FROM UGANDA.

Latest news from Uganda states that there has been no fresh fighting. The mutineers have gone to Unyoro, and Major Macdonald has gone to intercept them.

Some of the Indian troops have already reached Mengo and others are nearing the Lake.

RUSSIA AND BULGARIA.

MARCH 21.

Russia has sent a strong warning to Bulgaria to refrain from hostilities with Turkey.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

The British troops have reached Hudi, but found no signs of the Dervishes.

THE SUPREME COUNCIL.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, MARCH 21.

Sir James Westland's speech, in introducing the Budget, to-day, merely summarised the financial position. In regard to the question of the Currency legislation, he said Mr. Allan Arthur's Address to the Bengal Chamber, and the Bombay Chamber's Minute have been sent to the Secretary of State, and the matter is still under consideration. Referring to the financial position generally, he claimed that the burden imposed by the misfortunes of the past year would be wiped out in another twelve months.

THE PROGRESS OF BILLS.

THE POST OFFICE BILL PASSED.

A large amount of other important business also came before the meeting. The consideration of the Memon Community Bill was postponed, pending further reference to the Bombay Government.

The Central Provinces Tenancies and Land Revenue Bills were referred to Select Committees; and Sir James Westland made an important announcement regarding the Stamp Bill, which has been so much altered in the Select Committee to prevent its interfering with the existing commercial practices in such places as Calcutta and Bombay, that it has been decided to republish and circulate it afresh. It may possibly be taken up again in the Simla Session, but will be unable to come into force as soon as originally intended.

The Post Office Bill was passed into law; but the Presidency Small Cause Courts' Bill was postponed after some discussion for further consideration; Mr. Allan Arthur protesting in the name of the commercial community against the insufficiency of pay of the present Judges and of the attitude of Government in making profit out of the administration of justice instead of applying the surplus to the improvement of the efficiency.

Mr. Chalmers suggested that if the summary procedure and enhanced powers exercised in English county courts were adopted in India, the Small Cause Court work could be done with many fewer Judges, who could accordingly be better paid without increasing the expenditure.

Sir James Westland defended the financial policy towards the Courts on the ground, that though it was true that profit was made out of certain courts, yet the administration of justice as a whole in India barely paid its way.

Sir John Woodburn afterwards introduced his measure to amend the Indian Contract Act. This provides that when one party to the contract is in a position to dominate, the other penalties, such as the enhanced interest laid down in hand for the non-fulfilment of the contract shall not be enforced unless the dominant party can satisfy the court of the reasonableness of the penalties stipulated for.

Mr. James, in supporting the measure, urged the necessity of action to deal with the unsatisfactory state of things in regard to the indebtedness which prevails over a wide area of agricultural India.

Mr. Chalmers also introduces his Insolvency Bill, which removes the doubts which have arisen regarding the powers of the High Courts to pass rules under the Insolvency Act, and especially regarding the validity of rules framed and long acted upon in this connection in Bombay.

The Council re-assembles next Monday to discuss the Budget.

FRONTIER NEWS.

CALCUTTA, MARCH 21.

The reported death of the Sipah Salar is, after all, discredited, the official news which has now arrived showing he was alive on the 18th, though suffering from dysentery.

Twenty-two more rifles have been surrendered, and the Aka Khel are expected to complete the payment of their fine to-night.

The weather has now cleared on the frontier. General Palmer visited the Lewata Heights, near Mamani, yesterday.

THE RECENT DEFAMATION CASE.

THE DECISION REVERSED.

POONA, MARCH 21.

The appeal in the case of Drs. Mody vs. DeMello was decided, to-day, before the Hon. Judge Crowe. Dr. DeMello was sentenced by Rao Saheb Damodher Mudliar, First Class Magistrate, to pay a fine of Rs. 100 for defaming Dr. Mody to the latter's patients. The Hon. Mr. Chandawarkar argued the case before the Judge for Dr. DeMello, and pointed out the discrepancy between the words used in the notice served on DeMello and those used by the witness in the court.

Judge Crowe, in delivering the judgment, reversed the decision, remarking that from the whole circumstances of the case, the story told by the defence was probable, that the witnesses for the prosecution were unreliable, and that the principal witness might easily have forgotten the exact words; and looking to the fact that he contradicted the complainant on one, if not more, material points, it brings him to the conclusion that he is either a dishonest witness or his memory is fallacious. The Judge directed the fine to be refunded.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

LONDON, MARCH 19.

The B. I. S. N. Company's steamer Umballa left here this afternoon.

PLYMOUTH, MARCH 19.

[torn]and Q. Company's steamer Peninsular arrived he[torn]this morning.

HONGKONG, MARCH 19.

The P. and O. [torn]mpany's steamer Chusan arrived here, from Bomba[torn] this morning.

The P. and O. Co[torn]pany's steamer Bengal left here for Bombay this afte[torn]noon.

[torn]SINGAPORE, MARCH 21.

The Austrian Lloyd's [torn]eamer Maria Valerie left here this morning for Bomb[torn]y.

The Florio Rubattino Company's steamer Bormida, from Bombay, arrived at Hongkong on the 18th instant.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, MARCH 19.

The Liverpool Cotton Market closed quiet. Surats dull.

Good Bhownuggur	2 28-32.

The Manchester Market has been quiet but steady.

2¾ per cent. Consols	1[illegible]
3 per cent. Rentes	103 1-4 *ex.*
3½ per cent. Sterling Loan	114
3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	63 7-16
Bar Silver	25 9-16

The sum of about £100,000 has been paid into the Bank of England.

THE CLOSE OF THE CALCUTTA SEASON.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CALCUTTA, MARCH 17.

TUK—Tuk—Tuk, reiterates the hot weather bird all day, and the crows sit with their beaks agape, and the swallows are thinking of Tibet, whither the ducks and the snipe have already flown, while Calcutta is setting itself down to the hot weather, and realising what a relief it will be when its cold season visitors have taken their departure and chummeries can expand out of boarding houses and into chowringghee, and all the rush and well dressed crowding of the last few months be over. And if you ask me what have been the social functions of the week I find it hard to answer, for, with the exception of the Polo, which is now enlivened with a band and draws largely, entertainments have been confined almost entirely to private dinners and tennis and bicycle picnics.

The event of the week has of course been the publication of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, which its worst critics will not blame for want of thoroughness. True its scope is so great that it will be some little time before its full significance is fully realised, but from the native municipal commissioner who is already girding his loins to oppose it, to the man of business who thinks he sees in it a prospect of improved roads and lessened smells, and even down—or shall I say up?—to your lady reader, who hears her bicycle is to be taxed, it touches everybody and is accordingly warmly discussed. Whether in connection with its inception or no, one hears that the cumbrous wheels of the municipal machine have been running uncommonly smoothly of late, and if its tendency is only to multiply the brooms which are now to be seen at work of a morning, sweeping away the long neglected dust from some of the roads, the inhabitants will have at least one reason for welcoming it. Just now this dust is specially troublesome, as the road watering daily converts it, in the city, into the slipperiest of evil smelling slime, which the record of many a fatal case of tetanus, contracted from a fall, shows to be of the most poisonous character. Bicyclists specially complain of it as no tyre can be trusted not to slip in its greasy clutches. It may of course be said that once outside the actual limits of the houses the Calcutta bicyclist has some of the best and most level roads anywhere to be found, a run round the maidan, either before watering commences for the day, or after the moisture has dried, being one of the pleasantest of outings. Nevertheless, Calcutta's hitherto insufficiently scraped streets will have to be one of the earliest cares of the proposed Municipal executive, if the latter is to secure the confidence of the public.

Next to the Municipal Bill itself the question of whether or no Sir Alexander Mackenzie will be here to see it passed into law, is perhaps more discussed than any other. That his health has given cause for anxiety to his friends is undoubted, but he means to stick to his post, if in any way possible, until the measure he has so much at heart is passed, and everybody hopes he will able to do so, for, apart from all questions of party politics, Sir Alexander Mackenzie's personality has inspired such universal respect, and his strong grasp and intimate knowledge of the circumstances of the province are so valuable, that his departure, before the completion of his term, would be a public misfortune.

The departure of the retiring Commander-in-Chief and Lady White has been the occasion of a considerable demonstration of regard. So many have enjoyed the kindly hospitality of Lady White's "At homes," where both host and hostess have devoted themselves with graceful tact and consideration to the comfort of their guests, that it is no wonder Calcutta should give them a cordial send-off. The regrettable accident, from which Sir George has been suffering, has added to this feeling, and very genuine satisfaction is expressed at the extraordinary recovery he has been making. He goes to an appointment in England of great importance, and will leave many warm friends in this country. As for Lady White it is not too much to say that she will not only be widely missed, but that she has set an example which has throughout been one for good both in Calcutta and in Simla.

The air has been full of rumours during the past week of the announcement expected to be made by Sir James Westland on the subject of the currency at the Budget meeting of the Council on 21st. Mr. R. H. Macaulay's hurried visit to the Viceroy has no doubt been connected with this matter, but whatever may have been the nature of the conferences which have been taking place, nothing has so far transpired about them. Mr. Fred. Atkinson's criticisms of Mr. Lindsay's scheme have perhaps added to the general feeling of uncertainty by bringing to popular notice a few of the many shoals upon which a project of the kind might be wrecked, but with this exception little has happened to change the position, which is naturally exciting much speculation in Calcutta. Everybody is waiting for what Sir James Westland will say, and until his statement is made, it is to be hoped that Government will succeed in preventing Sir Griffith Evans' cynicism regarding the leaking of official secrets, from having yet another example upon which to claim credence.

THE RETIREMENT OF SIR GEORGE WHITE.

FAREWELL ORDER TO THE ARMY.

WARM TRIBUTE TO THE NATIVE TROOPS.

THE following General Order has been issued by the Commander-in-Chief:—On making over the command of the army in India, which has been entrusted to me for the past five years I wish to record my sense of the zeal and devotion to duty which have actuated all ranks over whom it has been my privilege to exercise command. In the period during which I have been Commander-in-Chief the armies, both British and Native, have undergone trying campaigns, in all of which they have acquitted themselves so as to secure prompt success in every single instance, and to add fresh honour to the grand history of the army in India.

Any record of the military services which have been rendered to the State during this period would be incomplete without a separate expression of my admiration for and gratitude to the officers (both British and Native) and men of the Native Army for their conduct in such campaigns as the Waziristan and Suakin expedition, the defence and relief of Chitral, the Mizar affair, and the consequent Tochi Expedition, the defence of the Malakand and Chakdara, and the subsequent operations of the Malakand Field Force, the Mohmand Expedition, the operations of the Tirah Expeditionary Force, the expeditions to Mombassa and Mekran, and other affairs, in all of which the Native Army has played a most prominent and a most honourable part.

I also desire to mark specially my sense of the loyalty and devotion to the interests of the State with which officers and soldiers (both British and Native) have come forward to help the civil administration in the arduous struggle with famine and plague.

I consider that the efficiency and discipline of all arms in India have reached a high standard but the uniformity of the training, which is so marked in the case of the cavalry and artillery, is still wanting in the infantry, and careful teaching in time of peace is still required. Although brilliant exceptions exist, the bulk of our infantry are insufficiently trained the the theory and practice of mill warfare, the class of service for which the most constant and the most severe calls are made on our army. It is true that at very many stations no ground exists where this can practically taught, but there are others especially those in the hills where full opportunity for such training is afforded. In those latter cantonments troops should be worked more consistently and for longer hours over the most difficult ground available, and practised in all the requirements and incidents of hill warfare, so that the officers and men may not only be acquainted with the theory of hill-fighting, but may also be at all times kept physically fit for it by constant practice.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Lieutenant-Generals of Commands, the Genetal Officers Commanding Districts, the Heads of Department, and more immediately the Headquarter Staff of the army for the cordial co-operation and able assistance which have lighteded so much to me the labours of this most important command.

MR. E. T. REED, who is both artist and author in Mr. Punch's "Animal Land," touched off the author of "Micah Clarke" very happily the other week as the Coneydoil of Churlacombs. He writes:—"This big friendly Creatures is very shrood and saggacious. If he finds a footprint he can tell you what coloured hair it has and whether it is a liberal or a conservative—which is very clever I think. He plays all games and always makes a hundred. He likes to run through the Strand with his tail in parts—all of them strong and healthy—then he collect it alltogether and it runs for a long time by itself."

GOLF IN BOMBAY, 1897-8.

THE season came to a somewhat abrupt end a week or two ago, when a segregation camp was run up over two of the golf greens. Probably golfers are the only Europeans who regret that the new Plague regulations did not come into force a month ago, in which case they might still have had their 9-hole course. A nine-hole course is bad enough, but 5 holes only are (as the bachelor said of married life) a sight worse. A good many golf players in Bombay have not yet got out of the dangerous stage, and since the more dangerous a player is the less care and patience he seems to exercise, a golfer's life, when half the Maidan only is open for him to play on, is not a happy one, even if he is well insured in an "Accidental" Office.

In most respects the past season can be called successful. We have several new players, some of whom may shine at Nasik in September next. Most of the competitions have been well patronised, and on many occasions the winner has only just got home from the next half-dozen players, and except in one instance the different handicaps have been won by different players, which is a satisfactory thought for the members of the handicapping committee to bear in mind. Curiously enough no two scratch prizes have been won by the same player, in spite of the fact that several of the scratch men have given up golf since the monsoon. Mr. Marshall has played regularly and been fairly successful, having on several occasions put in an excellent score. Mr. Pechey has played but little, and is not up to his last year's form. Mr. Marshall Reid has not played at all since the Gymkhana week in October, and Mr. Raikes has rested on the laurels he won with the St. Andrew's medal in November. Mr. Boggs has not played up to his usual form, but will no doubt do well again in the monsoon as he usually does. Mr. Fischer did well in the Wimbledon cup competition, but his play has on the whole been uncertain. Mr. Meikle won the Golfers cup early in the season but has not done much since. Mr. Jones, one of our best golfers, carried off the Macdonald cup in August, but since then has unfortunately been out of Bombay. Dr. Macdonald, the club's captain, has, we much regret to say, been prevented by illness from carrying off one or more of the medals as is his wont. We trust next season will see him on the course again. Mr. Aitken came to the front in the Gymkhana week, but has not since deserted the rocks of Bandora. Of the players who receive strokes from Bogey we think Mr. Merryweather has been the most consistent, though a little unlucky. Mr. Kiddle has done one or two good scores; so has Mr. C. E. Nixon, who finished by winning the Golfers' cup. Great things were expected of Mr. Cameron, but so far in vain. Mr. Smyth would probably do well if he played a little oftener, and the same remark might be made of Mr. Cheetham. Mr. Irvine, who also comes very near the scratchplayers, seeems to have given up golf. The R. A. Contingent have played more or less frequently and vigorously in competitions, but we have not often seen them practising on off days. Bombay golfers don't seem to improve much, probably because they will go out with all their clubs day after day and play all round the course. We believe "Badminton" says that the only way to learn golf is to master one club at a time. There are, by the way, a lot of books on golf which a good many Bombay players don't seem to have read. Of course one cannot get keen on golf out here, for excepting Bandora, the Bombay course is perhaps the worst in the world, and will no doubt remain so, unless a friendly earthquake one day makes valleys and hills on the maidan. We have a flat course in Bombay it is true, whereas Bandora undulates; but we have greens, not sand plateaus of varying strength; and we have a certain quantity of grass through the green instead of stones innumerable. To parody the proverb: Better a flat course where grass is than many hazards and stones therewith. Anyhow golf is worth learning and playing in Bombay if it only keeps you in practise against a trip to England.

Under the careful supervision of Mr. Kiddle the greens and tees have been kept in good order throughout the season, and promise well for the next. We cannot help asking in conclusion why ladies don't play golf more. We should think the committee would willingly set apart one day a week for the ladies' benefit. There are a lot of fairly good lady players in Bombay, and golf is nice quiet exercise, both for the body and mind—especially when the ball gets under the roots of a tree.

PRESIDENCY PLAGUE MORTALITY.

THE cases of plague and deaths therefrom reported to Government during the week ending March 18th were as follows:—

CITIES.	Cases.	Deaths.
Bombay	1,247	1,228
Poona	4	10
DISTRICTS.		
Kaira	2	2
Surat	126	97
Thana	29	21
Ahmednagar	8	6
Khandeish	29	25
Nasik	55	52
Poona	28	28
Satara	111	97
Sholapur	30	23
Kolaba	66	50
Ratnagiri	29	16
Belgaum	105	81
Dharwar	5	5
Bijapur	1	1
NATIVE TERRITORIES.		
Baroda	206	169
Kathiawar	61	38
Kolhapur	83	72
Cutch	15	11
Rewa Kantha	1	1
Palanpur	25	22
Sachin	12	6
Janjira	1	1
Akalkot	8	5
Aundh	17	13
Total	2,304	2,080

The plague mortality to date is as follows:—

Deaths previously reported	77,217
" week ending March 18th	2,080
Total to date	79,297

The deaths in the previous week numbered 2,092 and in the week ending March 4th, 2,225.

FIRE AT GIRGAUM.

LAST evening, a fire broke out in a stable situated in a Moogbhat Cross Lane, Girgaum, and within a quarter of an hour the stable as well as a small house adjoining it were burnt to the ground. The lane which abuts on Thakoordwar Road is thickly populated, the houses being small and for the most part made of timber, The Moogbhat temple, which is in close proximity to the scene of the outbreak, and large stacks of firewood were also in danger. But the absence of a strong wind and the promptitude of the Fire Brigade confined the damage to a narrow area. At the time ten animals were tethered in the stables, but immediately on the fire being discovered, a Hindu rushed in and saved them by unloosing them at once. The animals, terrified by the flames, ran out in different directions, causing confusion and fright amongst the crowd that had collected in the street. The fire originated in a quantity of hay lying in the stable, and it spread with so much rapidity that the whole stable was ablaze before the fire brigade put in an appearance. The Municipal steamers arrived one after the other, and two jets were soon directed on the flames, but not before the fire had taken complete possession of the stable and a small adjoining house. The brigade worked with application and energy, and the progress of the fire was checked in about half-an-hour. A portion of the eaves of a two-storeyed house caught fire, but was soon put out. The fire was completely put out before 7 p.m. The stable and the adjoining house belonged to one Jairam Khanjee, a dealer in piece-goods. The house had been vacant for some weeks past, the tenants having been evicted by the plague authorities, owing to cases of plague having occurred therein. The outbreak is attributed to careless bidee smoking. The damage done to the buildings and to the property of the tenants was roughly put down at Rs. 4,000. A very large crowd assembled in the vicinity of the fire, but this was well managed by the police, under the direction of Superintendent MacDermott. The smoke of the fire was plainly seen in the Fort.

MESSRS. CHATTO AND WINDUS, will publish Mr. Ernest Vizetelly's translation of M. Zola's "Rome" on the 1st of March. During the month of March they will also issue Bret Harte's "Tales of Trail and Town," Mr. Henty's "Colonel Thorndyke's Secret," Mr. Frank Barrett's "Was She Justified?" and Mr. Manville Fenn's "A Woman Worth Winning."

THE LATE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF MUNICIPAL DISINFECTANTS.

SURPRISING ALLEGATOINS.

THE following letter from the Municipal Commissioner was considered by the Standing Committee and the proposals contained therein approved, at a recent weekly meeting.

I have the honour to state, for the information of the Standing Committee, the terms on which, subject to the Committee's approval, I propose to compromise a claim against Messrs. Leopold and Company arising out of their contract for supply of disinfectants for the year just terminated. It was brought to my notice by the Chief Accountant in January last that the result of investigations he had been making was to show that there had been shortages in the weight of some of the carbolic acid powder supplied by these contractors, both to the Municipality and to the Plague Committee, and further that some of the recent supply to the Plague Committee of carbolic acid fluid was of a most inferior description, being largely made up of coal tar oils. As regards the powder owing chiefly to the extreme laxity (if not worse) of the Municipal Inspector of Stores and to the want of system which seems to have prevailed in the Stores Department of the Plague Committee it has unfortunately been impossible to ascertain the actual extent of shortages which have occurred. Under the contract the carbolic acid powder was guarantee to contain 15 per cent. of carbolic acid and was to be supplied in casks, each containing 200lbs. net weight of powder. So far as can be ascertained, there is no reason to suppose that the quality of the powder has been in any way inferior, but it is certain that, in many instances at any rate, the contents of the casks or boxes were largely deficient in weight. The inspector of Stores, whose duty it was to weigh the goods as received, or at any rate a large percentage of them, and who of course ought to have at once reported any short weight, when confronted with the undoubted fact that the stores then in his charge were under weight, made a lame and very unsatisfactory attempt at explanation, to the effect that, on finding that supplies which were being delivered in October last were largely under weight, he contented himself with communicating with the contractors by telephone; that they excused themselves (also by telephone) saying that they could not get men to make boxes of the proper size, but would send whatever quantity he found to be deficient, and that they did so; that he gave receipts for the number of boxes in the first instance received (though knowing them to be short weight), but not for those stated to have been received to make up the weight. There are numerous, somewhat intricate, details bearing on the suspicious and unsatisfactory state of things which has been found to have existed but I do not think it desirable to discuss these at present. I directed the Chief Accountant immediately to consult the Municipal Solicitors, and the matter has since been in their hands. They have gone into it thoroughly, and advise me that, though under the contract the contractors' deposit amounting to Rs. 6,500 is declared liable to forfeiture for breach of contract, it is doubtful under the circumstances, and having regard to the absence of evidence as to the actual extent of shortages, &c., how far this liability would be enforced by a Court; they therefore think that, unsatisfactory though the conduct of the contractors has been, it is better to content ourselves with inflicting a reasonable penalty than invite the expensive and troublesome litigation which would almost certainly result if we insisted on the forfeiture of the deposit.

After considering matters carefully with the Chief Accountant and Solicitors, I instructed the latter in writing to the contractors to insist on their supplying free of charge 300 additional boxes of powder of 200 lbs. net weight each, and replacing certain drums of carbolic acid fluid recently supplied to No. 2 Plague District. This practically represented a penalty equivalent to about Rs.3,340 in cash. The contractors, while repudiating any suggestion of intentional unfair dealing have after some correspondence, so far met this demand as to offer to deliver to the Municipality at once, free of charge, carbolic acid as per contract of the value or Rs. 3,000 in full settlement of all claims. It happens that at the present time it will suit as better to have acid, than powder, and as the difference between us (Rs. 340) is not large, I am disposed, under all the circumstances, to agree to these terms, and the Solicitors advise me that it would be well to do so. I shall be glad therefore to know if the Standing Committee approve of this course.

As regards the case of the Inspector of Stores, I shall of course deal with him in a suitable manner, and as regards the contractors themselves this matter will of course be borne in mind, should they in future tender for any other municipal contract.

Arrangements are being made to place the Stores Department on a satisfactory footing.

LADIES AND PLAGUE SUGGESTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—I entirely agree with "An Englishwoman" in her views of Bombay Plague. Our brothers, husbands, wives, and sisters have been battling with this dreadful disease, risking their lives—in some cases losing them,—and the ignorant people think it is all zoolum. Now keep them in, and let them have a full dose of this poison unchecked, and they will see that, as in London, 3,000 will die in two hours, and upwards of half-a-lakh in two months (see Defoe), and then the P. and O., British India, 'Hall, Anchor, and other shipping lines can withdraw from Bombay as a port of call; we can retire and take our Western inventions, the railways, cotton-mills, telegraph, telephone, law, courts, army, police, and post office, etc., etc., and all our property with us to a land where there is no risk of cholera or plague; where there is gratitude and respect. They will soon pray the Government (Sirkar Ma-bap) and their soldiers, doctors, and nurses to free them from the maw of this voracious man-eating tiger.—Yours &c.,

Satara, March 19. AN IRISHWOMAN.

RELIEF FOR AFFLICTED POLICEMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—I notice in the "Bombay Gazette" of yesterday's date, that in response to an appeal made by Mrs. Gostling money was collected and warm jackets, fruit, etc., distributed to the various hospitals. May I remind Mrs. Gostling and friends interested in this good work, of the Police Sepoy Plague Hospital, situated on Foras Road? Presents of warm clothes, fruit, etc., would be much appreciated there by the sick sepoy. Then there is the other Police Hospital in Mazagon, Hospital Lane. It would be kind to sometimes remember the poor sick sepoy there. Just after the last riots many injured sepoys were in hospital, and it was condemned as most unsuitable, but the matter dropped, and the sick sepoy is still housed in this damp unhealthy place. There are no nurses, and very little of any other comforts. In the hospital at present there are about 60 patients with one ward boy in attendance. Surely they deserve something better than this. Other natives have splendid hospitals, nurses, and all manner of comforts. Why not the sick sepoy?—Yours, &c.,

E. P. K.

ENTERTAINMENT TO COLONEL GREAGH.

MR. PESTONJEE LIMJEE and the Volunteers of Raviwar, Gunesh and Kusba Peths, issued invitations to several European and Native ladies and gentlemen of Poona City and Cantonment to meet at a Pansupari Party in honour of Colonel Greagh, V. C Members of the City Plague Committee, and other Plague officers. In response to the invitations there assembled at 6 p. m in a Mandap specially erected in Raviwar Peth, a large gathering of European, Parsee and Native ladies and gentlemen.

The guests were received under the tastefully decorated arches by the Supervisor and Volunteers. On their taking their seats some Marathi verses were sung.

Mr. G. V. Limaye then read an address to Colonel Greagh and the members of the Plague Committee, after which Mr. Dayaram, a Bania Merchant, thanked the Plague Committee for their unremitting exertions in stamping out the Plague. Mr. N. C. Kelkar, M.A., also rose and thanked the Plague officers.

Col. Creagh, in thanking Mr. Pestonjee, Volunteers and residents of Rawiwar, Ganesh and Kasba Peths said that the people had had some very hard work, as also the the Plague officers. He was glad to find that the people had taken it kindly and cheerfully, and allowed no prejudices to interfere with the work of the Committee. With the able assistance of his colleagues he was glad to see that within four months the plague had totally disappeared from Poona and he hoped that it would return no more. Poona people however had Bombay to fear; but if they continued to work the quarantine and surveillance systems he believed they would be safe. The chairman and his colleagues, he said, were amply rewarded by the gratitude expressed by the people As regards the three Peths that entertained him on that evening he said he was glad to find that with Mr. Pestonjee Limjee who was so well-known not only to the Peths but to the whole City of Poona, as Chief Volunteer, the work was satisfactory. Lieutenant Harrington, superintendent of the two wards mixed with the people and had the work carried on so smoothly in conjunction with the chief Volunteer that he had no occasion to be acquainted even with the residents of the Peths, as he had often to visit and settle matters in dispute in other Peths of the city. All the guests were then garlanded and after distribution of attar, pan and flowers, the guests returned home pleased with the evening's entertainment.

TRIAL OF THE RIOTERS.

ASSAULT ON CONSTABLE CAUTY.

THE ACCUSED COMMITTED TO THE SESSIONS.

AT the Esplanade Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. J. Sanders-Slater, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Superintendent Brewin and Sardar Mir 'Abdul Ali again charged Bhagwandeen Baldev, Luxmon Baldev, and Ismail Badal with causing grievous hurt to Constable Cauty, a public servant, in the discharge of his duty in order to deter him from discharging his duty. Mr. F. A. Little, Government Solicitor, prosecuted, while Mr. Asbury, pleader, defended the first two prisoners.

Mr. T. D. W. Gillespie, House-Surgeon of the Sir J. J. Hospital, examined by Mr. Little, said that he saw Constable Cauty soon after he was brought into the hospital. He was in a somewhat low condition. He had seven contused wounds on the back and top of the head, varying in length from a quarter of an inch to one and a half inch. Some of the wounds had exposed the bones beneath the scalp. He also had several bruises on the back of the left shoulder, and a small wound on the thumb of the left hand and a bruise on the right fore arm. There was a small wound on the nose. He had evidently lost a good deal of blood from the wound on the top of the head. He was suffering from certain amount of concussion of brain. He was answering the questions hesitatingly and he appeared to be in a dazed condition. His life was in danger at the time from the effects of injuries he had received. He had suffered much pain and was consequently restless and unable to sleep. Probably he would take a month to return to his duty. He was removed to St. George's Hospital on the evening of the 11th, when it was considered safe to remove him. Previous to that he was not in a condition to be removed. Witness had not seen him since he had been removed to the other hospital. The wound on his nose was not likely to disfigure his face.

Inspector Coxen, examined by Mr. Little, said that on the evening of the 9th instant he was instructed to arrest the first two accused. He sent police sepoy No. 1054 on that duty in plain clothes, and he subsequently brought No. 1 to him. On searching his house witness found the two sticks produced before the court. No. 2 was arrested at the segregation camp, Parel, on the 13th.

Baboo Yessoo, police-sepoy, No. 1054, E, deposed to his having arrested accused No. 1 in his house on the 12th instant, and No. 2 on the 13th in the segregation camp, Parel.

Superintendent Brewin, examined by Mr. Little, said last Saturday evening when the court rose he went to the European General Hospital. He saw Dr Boyd, Surgeon-in-charge, and with him went into the room where Constable Cauty was ill. He was not in a condition to give evidence in court, nor would he be able to do so for some time to come. He was at present suffering from erysipelas in consequence of the wounds he had received. He saw Constable Cauty again on the previous evening and he was much in the same condition. The doctor thought that he was not in a state of health to make a statement. He was still confined to his bed.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

The accused, being asked by the Court, declined to make any statement.

Charges of rioting, being members of an unlawful assembly, and causing grievous hurt to Constable Cauty and assaulting other Europeans were framed against the accused.

The accused were then formally committed to the next Criminal Sessions of the High Court, which is to be held on the 4th proximo.

TWO PRISONERS DISCHARGED.

The case against Essaji Hakimji, Ibrahimji Hakimji and Lalsha Najmuddin was then called on for hearing.

Mr. Little applied that the first two prisoners be discharged as he did not propose to lead evidence against them.

The magistrate discharged them.

THE RIOT ON BELLASIS ROAD.

THE ASSAULT ON MR. GLAZEBROOK.

Taj Mahomed Hassan, a stone quarry contractor, and 19 others were next charged with being members of an unlawful assembly, rioting, and committing mischief. Mr. H. Sealy, pleader, defended Nos. 1, 18, and 20.

Superintendent Brewin having given evidence as to the beginning of the riot, Mr. James Cotter, telegraph master, Government Telegraph Office, Bellasis Road, said on Wednesday the 9th instant at about 12 30 p.m. the road near the office was crowded by Mahomedans and mostly Julais. They imitated the sign of the cross, thereby implying that Europeans would be killed. They told witness that they would kill him and his family. He saw two Europeans being assaulted One of them was a police officer, driving in a victoria. The crowd first attacked the horse with sticks. They knocked the driver off the box, who afterwards ran away. They then assaulted the occupant of the gharry. They next attacked his office, and cut down the four telegraph wires, which were outside the building. They did not come inside the office, because they were afraid to do so, as they knew that he had a gun with him. The next incident he noticed was the assault on Mr. Glazebrook, while his gharry was passing along the road. They first hit the driver and then the gentleman with sticks. Mr. Glazebrook jumped out of the carriage, threw up his arms and ran for his life, followed by the crowd. He went into a stable and thence to Messrs. Treacher's shop. Witness then lost sight of him. After the firing commenced the crowd ran away. Witness identified accused Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 as being present in the crowd with sticks in their hands. He saw all this from a window of the first floor, where the office is situated. The assault on the Europeans commenced at 12·30, and Mr. Glazebrook was assaulted shortly after the wires were cut down.

Cross-examined by Mr Sealy, witness said that after Mr. Glazebrook was assaulted the volunteers came up. Witness asked them to stay their till he had spliced the broken wires. Witness had been looking on from the beginning to the end. Besides himself, his wife, his son and others were also looking through the window. His whole family was on the first floor. None of the members of his family were on the ground floor.

Constable James Murray, examined by Mr. Little, said at about 12-30 p. m. on the 9th instant he was passing along the junction of the Bellasis Road in a gharry with Mr. Glazebrook and Constable Hurst. When they came up to the junction he saw a great crowd of people, who were yelling and brandishing sticks. He told them "tum thanda raho" (you remain quiet). After they proceeded twenty yards unmolested, witness received a blow from a stick, while he was alighting from the gharry he received another blow on his right hand, rendering it useless. They then set about him and his companions properly and gave them a real good thrashing with sticks and stones. Constable Hurst was also hurt. He appeared to be dazed from a blow on the head and was staggering. Witness and the constable staggered across the road. Witness identified Nos. 1, 4, 8, 9, and 14 as being present in the riotous crowd. No. 1 was brandishing his stick. He was not positive about No. 9. No. 1 was one of the individuals who had hit him with a stick, though he was not quite sure about that, as a number of sticks fell on him.

Cross-examined by Mr. Sealy, witness said that he knew accused No. 1. He remembered to have seen him passing by while he was in E. Division. He could not tell what he was. He left E. Division on the 19th of November 1896.

Constable Chambers, examined by Mr. Little, said on the morning of Wednesday, the 9th instant, he went to the junction of the Bellasis Road. He saw there a crowd of about 80 or 100 people surrounding Mr. Glazebrook. They were brandishing sticks and yelling. Witness identified Nos. 2, 6 and 13 as the persons who assaulted Mr. Glazebrook. These three persons, to-gether with Nos. 3 and 8, afterwards assaulted Constable Murray.

Constable Patterson, examined by Mr. Little, said he was in company of the last witness at the junction of the Bellasis Road. He saw Mr. Glazebrook. Witness identified Nos. 9, 16, and 17 as persons who assaulted Mr. Glazebrook. Witness was struck on the Duncan Road.

Constable Favel, of the Criminal Investigation Department, examined by Mr. Little, said he was with Constables Chambers and Patterson at the junction of the Bellasis Road. He saw Mr. Glazebrook being assaulted by Nos. 2, 6, 8 and 9.

Dadamian Ahmed, police havildar No. 325 E., identified Nos 2 and 15 as being present in the crowd. He could not say whether they had sticks or not.

Mahomed Jivan Mahomed Diam, police havildar No. 238 E., identified Nos. 1 and 6 as being present in the crowd.

Tookaram Tatia, a Ghatti, identified accused No 1.

Govind Mahadev, police sepoy No. 582, E., identified Nos. 3 and 5. The crowd attacked the Europeans and the police.

Sheikh Lal Sheikh Kasam, police sepoy No. 2 E., identified Nos. 4 and 9.

Daji Apaji, police havildar, No. 1129 E., said he was with Constables Favel, Chambers, and Patterson. He identified Nos. 7 and 10.

Ganpat Kooshaba, police sepoy, No. 13 E., identified No. 8. He was flourishing his stick and calling out "maro, maro."

Vithal Hari, a messenger in the telegraph office, at the junction of the Bellasis Road, identified Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8. All of them had sticks in their hands. Some had stones. They were pelting stones at the carriages which were passing along the road. They were crying out "maro, maro" when Europeans happened to pass by.

Sheikh Asraf Sheik Vazir, police sepoy No. 583 E., identified Nos. 11, 14, and 17.

Police sepoy No. 548 E. identified No. 19. Witness was struck by him.

Abdool Gani Mashoon, police sepoy No. 243 E., identified Nos. 12, 13, and 16.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

TWO ACCUSED DISCHARGED.

Mr. Little drew attention of the court to the fact that accused Nos. 18 and 20 had not been identified by witnesses.

The magistrate ordered their discharge.

The statements of the accused were then recorded and the names of their witnesses noted down.

The case was adjourned till to-day.

Mr. Little informed the Magistrate that there were still about thirteen batches of prisoners to be tried in connection with the riots.

THE CITY MORTALITY.

THE Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending 6 a.m., yesterday, give the following results:—

WARDS.		No. of Attacks.	No. of Deaths from Bubonic Plague.	Total Deaths from all Causes.
A	Upper Colaba	0	0	12
	Mid. & Lower Colaba	2	2	
	Fort, Southern	0	0	
	Fort, Northern	4	1	
	Esplanade	0	0	
B	Mandvie	3	2	33
	Chuckla	1	0	
	Umarkhady	0	7	
	Dongri	1	1	
C	Market	5	1	43
	Dhobi Talao	18	3	
	Fanaswady	3	1	
	Bhuleshwar	0	3	
	Khara Talao	2	2	
	Kumbharwada	3	6	
D	Khetwadi	8	4	23
	Girgaum	0	9	
	Chowpaty	9	1	
	Walkeshwar	2	1	
	Mahaluxmi	1	0	
E	Mazagon	6	9	75
	Tarwady	0	2	
	Second Nagpada	0	0	
	Kamatipura	3	5	
	Tardeo	1	1	
	Byculla	8	14	
	First Nagpada	2	0	
F	Parel	6	3	16
	Sewree	0	1	
	Sion	1	1	
G	Mahim	6	2	12
	Worlee	8	4	
	Water Division	0	0	8
	N.-P. & Unknown	35	0	
	HOSPITALS.			
	Parsee		3	94
	Jain		3	
	Grant Road		8	
	St. George's		0	
	Mahim Custom		0	
	Wari Bunder		0	
	Adamjee Peerbhoy		3	
	Jain, Parel		3	
	Telegu		0	
	Ripon Road		0	
	Hindu		7	
	Dharavi		2	
	Arthur Road		15	
	Nizampura		0	
	Custom Road		0	
	Gocouldas Tejpal		0	
	Dariasthan		1	
	Modykhana		9	
	3rd Bhoiwada		1	
	Port Trust		0	
	Bai Motlabai		1	
	Police		0	
	Madanpura		1	
	Kapol & Lad Joint		1	
	J J Hospital		1	
	Brahma Khutri		1	
	Govt. House, Parel		6	
	Maratha		15	
	Hajee Cassum		5	
	Total	138	172	316
	Total plague deaths to date	25,250	21,944	
	Same date last year	61	60	150

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

These reports showed that in the Colaba District two cases of plague were detected—one at the Cotton Green and, was removed to the Port Trust Hospital, and another lying on Colaba Road, and removed to the Modikhana Hospital. In the Fort District five cases were recorded as under: one case was removed from No. 47, Karwar Street, one from No. 16, Nanabhoy Lane, and one from Servants' Quarters, Yacht Club, and removed to the Modikhana Hospital. One case, which had been removed from house No. 52, Custom House Road, died in the Parel Government House Hospital. One case removed from No. 16, Elphinstone Circle, died in Arthur Road Hospital. One case, admitted into the Cama Hospital from Malabar Hill, was removed to the Modikhana Hospital. The reports from the Mandvie Ward were not available. In the C Ward (north) the Kumbarwada section showed no cases and four deaths, the Khara Talao section two cases and one death, and Bhuleshwar section no cases and five deaths. The reports from D Ward had not been received. In E Ward, Byculla section showed three cases and six deaths, Mazagon section seven cares and one death, Nagpada section one case and one death, Kamatipoora section no cases and two deaths, and Tardeo section no cases and four deaths. In the Parel and Mahim Wards six cases and three deaths were recorded.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE C WARD.

The members of the committees appointed for house-to-house visitation and granting death certificates in different sections met, yesterday evening, at the district plague office of the C Ward, Major Ross, the District Plague Officer, occupying the chair. At the outset the chairmen were appointed for each committee, some of them being appointed in their absence. Major Ross then explained to the gentlemen present the instructions of H. E the Governor in Council. He said that the members of the committees' first duty was to grant death certificates, that wherever plague deaths are discovered the complete disinfection may be carried out. He hoped that the number of members might be increased to 60 in future, that each of them may not have to inspect a locality of more than 600 people. Wherever a patient had not been attended to by a medical man, the member should inform him at once, so that a medical officer might be sent to ascertain the cause of the death. Their second duty was to search houses daily or at suitable opportunities, and any case of a suspicious character should be at once reported to him, in which case an ordinary chit from them would do. The third duty imposed upon them was to ascertain the number of contacts who should be removed to the health camps, near E. I. Hospital or on the Churney Sea Face. The resedents should be advised to go to camp, where they will not be detained for more than 10 days, during which interval the house will be completely disinfected, which was the best and surest way, in his opinion, to drive off plague. The fourth thing they had to do was to recommend houses or blocks of houses to be vacated. The complete vacation of the house was most necessary, so much so that not even a stick should be left there. He impressed upon those present that the recommendation for the vacation of a room or a floor will not serve the purpose in view; the whole house should be vacated. After some further conversation, Major Ross distributed the death certificate books, instructing the members to return to him the counterpart of the certificate immediately, that prompt action for the disinfection of the houses be taken. The members then dispersed. Major Ross asked them to commence work without any delay.

PLAGUE AMONG EUROPEANS.

DEATH OF THREE EUROPEANS.

Mrs. Gillet, wife of Captain Gillet, and a three-year old daughter of Mr. Herbert Good, merchant, both recently removed from a dwelling opposite the Customs House suffering from plague, died of that disease in St. George's Hospital, yesterday. Another death from the same cause occurred in the family of Mr. Ringrow, of the Customs Department. His grown up daughter, fourteen years of age, was taken to the hospital yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, but died before admission.

At the present time there are 16 plague patients under treatment in the European and Eurasian plague ward. Since Wednesday last there have been 12 admissions, six of them having been taken to the hospital since Saturday. Of the 16 patients 13 are country-born Europeans, two were born in England, and one on the Continent. The patients include Mr. Carl Bramer, assistant, Messrs. Glade and Co., Miss Stockbridge, the nurse lately in charge of the Multani Hospital, Mr. Herbert Judd, gate-keeper of the Port Trust, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Good.

PLAGUE AMONGST THE PORTUGUESE.

A meeting of the Portuguese community was held on Sunday, at Dabool, to consider the measures already adopted and to take further steps in order to mitigate the sufferings of the plague-stricken of the community. On the motion of Dr. A. G. da Gama, Rev. Victorino

de Souza, Vicar of Versova, who is assisting the Very Rev. Vicar of Dabool, was voted to the chair. Thereupon Mr. L. Mascarenhas related at length what had been done. Dr. da Gama, chairman of the committee, was commissioned to negotiate with the Plague Committee for separate accommodation for Goan patients in the hospitals. After some correspondence with the Plague Committee, several contagious beds in the Arthur Road Hospital and one of the wards in the Narelwady Hospital were secured for Goan patients. Besides three sheds have previously been erected in the compound of Ashburner's bungalow for segregating the contacts of the Portuguese community. The Revd. Vicar of Dabool was assisted with money to help the patients and all the Goan families who may be in distressed circumstances. The letters of Sir James Campbell were read, thanking the Goans for assisting the Plague Committee in carrying out the troublesome rules. Sir James had subscribed Rs. 100 for the Goan patients. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to him. It was decided to keep open the subscription list that was started last year, out of which the Committee was providing better accommodation and more comforts to the Goan patients. The Committee and the Revd. Vicar of Dabool and his assistants were thanked for their work on behalf of the plague-stricken of the community.

INOCULATION.

The number of persons inoculated with Professor Haffkine's prophylactic lymph in the Khosro Lodge Bungalow, at Nesbit Lane, on Saturday, was:—Khojas 8, and other nationalities 7. Total to date:—Khojas 6,888, and other nationalities 1,751. Grand total 8,639.

THE CASE OF PLAGUE ON THE MAIL STEAMER.

The mail steamer Shannon, which had a case of plague on board, will probably be detained in quarantine for the full period. Meantime, the Health Officer of the Port has ordered the vessel to be thoroughly disinfected, which process commenced yesterday. Some more dead rats have been found on board.

SEGREGATION CAMPS.

Yesterday's reports showed that there were 1,335 persons in the Goculdas Tejpal Camp, 389 persons in the Dadur Health Camp, 311 persons in the Wari Bunder Camp, and 168 persons in the Modikhana Camp.

INFLUX AND EXODUS.

During the twenty-four hours ending 6 a.m. on Sunday the number of persons who left Bombay and entered the city by sea and land was as follows:—Arrivals by sea 835, and by land through Mahim and Sion causeways 2,270, making a total of 3,105 persons. Departures by sea 442, and by land through Mahim and Sion causeways 2,630, making a total of 3,072 persons. From 6 a.m. on Sunday to 6 a.m. yesterday.—Arrivals by sea 524, and by land through Mahim and Sion causeways 2,013, making a total of 2,537 persons. Departures by sea 677, and by land through Mahim and Sion causeways 2,184, making a total of 2,861 persons.

THE NEW PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

In the course of a memorandum of instructions sent to District Officers through the Plague Committee it is observed:—

Under the revised system of plague operations which Government desire should be brought into force immediately, the chief principle involved is that of house-visitation being carried on by the people themselves as indicated in the above-mentioned rules. Plague officials will search only those houses where the fact is reasonably established that plague cases or deaths have recently occurred. There are many such houses within the city, but unless the houses is shown by the rings or is known to the District Officer to have recently had plague it must not be considered to be an infected house, neither should houses where plague cases have recently occurred, be kept longer under surveillance than is considered absolutely necessary by the District Officers. A house thoroughly disinfected may, after that operation has been completed, be considered a clean house.

In regard to house-visitation by native gentlemen the best means to effect this visitation is to form a series of small Plague Committees for each district or sub-district within each ward. If a district has too large an area it should be divided twice or thrice or into smaller sub-divisions of such size as can be thoroughly inspected in two or three days by a small committee; this small committee to be appointed from the names of those gentlemen, who have already been working or who have volunteered their services to Government. Each committee will be under the District Officer and Sectional District Officer, to whom they will be responsible. The gentlemen appointed to this committee should be chosen from those who principally live or have large interest in the neighbourhood. Each committee should appoint his own chairman and secretary and the District or sectional Officer, who in every case is the official chairman, should arrange to meet these gentlemen and help to apportion streets or parts of streets in which one or more members of the committee will be responsible for the house-visitation.

The success of the new organization will depend very greatly on the close touch the District Officers or Sectional District Officers keep with these committees as unless backed by help the movement will, in many parts of the city, be a failure, and his Excellency the Governor in Council desires to impress upon District Officers the paramount importance of securing the cordial and energetic co-operation of heads of communities or sections of communities, however humble their nominal social position may be, and he looks to them to secure by tact, patience, and kindness the cheerful goodwill of the population and the success of the volunteer organization now initiated.

Reports from the committees will go to the Sectional District Officer and from him in the ordinary way to District Officers daily. Disinfection will continue as before, and contacts will be removed as laid down in Rule 4 of Government letter. The Rules in regard to the vacating of houses will continue, but should be modified and worked in conjunction with these committees. Government desire also that these committees shall be worked in conjunction with the Central Grievance Committee sitting under the chairmanship of Mr. DuBoulay at the Town Hall, and complaints heard by that committee, if well-founded, with be referred to the District Officer and the local committee of the area to which they refer, and it is requested that arrangements be made to give such complaints thorough investigation, after which a report should be forwarded to the Bombay Plague Committee who will take the necessary action.

Another revision which Government desire shall be immediately attended to is that under the new arrangements the services of as many subordinates and lower subordinates as possible shall be dispensed with, it having been laid down that only a medical officer with fully qualified degrees, is to give an opinion on plague cases. It follows that medical students and hospital assistants will no longer be of use in house-visitation. District Officers should, therefore, give this matter their early consideration and submit lists of staff which they propose to reduce.

In the event of a case of plague occurring in the family of a well-known and the well-to-do respectable person Government desire that if the house is a detached one, and if the patient can be isolated and if the family agree to remove to one of the Committee's health camps or dwell where they can be placed under supervision, the Plague Committee will allow the patient to remain in the house and can be attended to there by his own doctor and one or two members of his family.

A PLAGUE MIXTURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—Various have been the investigations and observations on the scourge which has been devastating our city since September 1896. Eminent scientists have been unceasingly working to discover some "serum" remedy to curb the deadly influence of the plague bacilli, while the local medical practitioners, high and low, are all racking their brains to find out whether a certain "tincture" or a certain "liquor" will save the human body once attacked from the rapid disintegrating influence of the dire disease. Each and all have met with very scant success indeed. Various as the reasons are by which we can account for this want of success in grappling with the disease, one thing is undisputably certain, that in a majority of cases the disease from the time of its clear appearence in the subject runs its course very rapidly, affecting the heart in a short time, and also attacking the lungs and bowels. I have since November, 1896, personally attended upon several plague cases and carefully noted the effects of various treatments, and I have come to the conclusion that, whatever the treatment may be, the first requisite is that it should be resorted to at once on the first appearance of febrile symptoms. The present plague regulations regarding searching out and reporting of plague cases, and their enforced removal to pest-houses, however well intentioned they may be, have operated the other way. Every treatment which might avert or check the progress of the disease has rather been delayed or avoided, than sought for voluntarily in the bulk of cases. Add to this the nervous agitation and fright of the affected in such a critical state and one can easily understand the appalling death-rate.

As it is now contemplated to make certain changes and alterations in the plague regulations, I beg to suggest that some mixture which may be in the opinion of the authorities a good counteractant, if immediately commenced with, be placed at the disposal of every household free of charge, just as cholera mixtures are supplied in the mofussil towns, with clear directions as to how the same is to be used. I am sure such a mixture can be prepared. I have prepared one, as given hereunder, and have used it with considerable success. I throw out this suggestion as I firmly believe that a ready remedy in hand in the case of an infectious disease like plague or cholera proves a hundredfold more useful than all the things which the Plague Committee may put forth to save an ignorant populace. Mixture.—"Sulpho-carbolate of soda, three drahms; salicylate of soda, two drahms; sulphate of magnesia, two ounces; iodide of potash, half a drahm; tincture digitalis, one and a-half drahm; spirit ammonia aromatic, four drahms; brandy (Spt. Vini Gallici), three ounces; essence of peppermint, twenty minims. Water—add to make four ounces. Dose.—An eighth part for an adult every three hours in an equal quantity of water. For youths between nine and fourteen years of age, half-a-dose. For children a quarter of the dose.—Yours, &c.,

March 21. ALEX. MYABEG.

MEDICAL MEN AND PLAGUE WORK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—I am glad his Excellency Lord Sandhurst has given orders for the discharge of medical students employed in connection with the house-to-house visitation work. I have not the slightest wish or intention to deprecate the useful work they have done, in so far as medical students could do. But let me, as one coming in hourly contact with plague work draw the attention of his Excellency to an arrangement, which obtains in some of the Government Plague Hospitals, of employing medical students for the purpose of treating patients suffering from plague in every stage of the case. I should certainly have said nothing to question this arrangement had we not amongst us highly paid and fully qualified medical men drawing Rs. 400 and over (sent out by the Secretary of State as well as those drawn from the Indian Medical Service). Some of these fully qualified men, and who number more than half-a-dozen, are utilized for taking temperature and for merely examining the tongues and the axellor and the groins of outward bound passengers at the Bombay harbour. Would not an exchange of these highly paid officers with medical students employed in our plague hospitals be the best and more sensible way of utilising fully qualified medical men. Just fancy, Sir, the lives of hundreds of patients being placed in the hands of medical students, when full-fledged and duly qualified men are doing work which mere students could be employed for. I presume Dr. Crimmin, the energetic and discreet Port Health Officer, must be present to supervise the inspection in the harbour, and all doubtful cases could be safely referred to him by the students. Of course, I have not overlooked the fact that the plague hospitals are in charge of a fully qualified medical officer, but I can prove it as a fact, if it at all needs proving, that some of these officers attend the hospital only in the morning and in the evening. Then what about the patients that are brought in during all hours of the day and in all stages of the attack? Are their lives to depend on a mere thread, and hang between the skill of a medical student and his ignorance of the diagnosis, and take his chance of living through the day or die before the fully qualified medical officer in charge of the hospital turns up in the evening. Surely, some of our plague hospitals require more careful supervision and ought not to be left to the treatment of medical students as between the visting hours of the medical officers in charge and at the most critical moment of the patient's life. Is it not just possible that the heavy mortality in our hospitals is due to this most serious error?—Yours, &c.,

X. Y. Z.

THE CASE ON THE MAIL STEAMER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—Under the heading "The Plague" you state in to-day's issue: "The English Mail steamer Shannon, Captain F. Cole, which arrived in harbour on Saturday from Aden, had a suspicious case of plague on board, the patient being Mr. H. Blandford, an Eurasian, of the Postal Sorting Department." Mr. H. Blandford is not an Eurasian, but is of English parentage. You further write: "On the 13th instant, some dead rats were found on board in the Purser's storeroom, and the next day Mr. Blandford was attacked with fever." Mr. Blandford joined the steamer at Aden on the 21st instant.—Yours, &c.,

WILLOUGHBY LE GEYT.

THE NEW COMMITTEES.

C WARD (NORTH.)

The Plague Committee met yesterday at the Central Office C Ward, Dhobie Talao, and appointed committees to carry out plague operations under the new rules for the C Ward (north)—Khumbharwada, Bhuleshwar and Khara Talao. The details are as under:—

KHUMBHARWADA SECTION.

Sub-section 1.—Bounded on the north by Khetwady Main Road, on the south by Girgaum Back Road, on the east by Cowasji Patel Tank Road, and on the west by Ardeshir Dady Street.

Committee:—Messrs. A. Deshmukh, Purshotumdas Bhugwandas and Dr. Framji Shapoorji.

Sub-section 2.—Bounded on the north by Falkland Road, on the west by 2nd Carpenter Street, on the south by Khetwady Main Road, and on the east by Cowasji Patel Tank Road.

Committee:—Messrs. Shivlal Motilal, Moroba Daji Shroff, Keshow Purshotum, Gujanund, Baboorao Soni, Moreshwar Nanabhoy, Luximon Purshotum, Ramchundra Baliaji, Anundrao Shivaji, Ragunath Narayan Dandekar, Shewshunker Narayen Wengorle.

2ND CARPENTER STREET.

Committee:—Messrs. Krishnarao Bhaskerao Rele Shamrao Bhawoo, Bhugwantrao Moroba, Bhasker Dajiba, Laldas Damodherdas, Moreshwar Harichund, Purshotum Gopal, Madan Moroba, Nanabhoy Gopinath, and Jeykisondas Harivalabhdas.

Sub-section.—3 Bounded on the north by Falkland Road, on the east by 2nd Carpenter Street, on the south by Khetwady Main Road, and on the west by Ardeshir Dady Street.

Committee:—Messrs. Vithal Purshotum, Ahmed Ismail, and Hoosein Murgay.

Sub-section 4.—Bounded on the north by Durgadavi Road, on the south by Falkland Road, on the west by Khumbharwada and on the east by Duncan Road.

Committee:—Mr. Muncharam, one Mahomedan and two Marathas.

Sub-section 5.—Bounded on the north by Durgadavi Road, on the south by Falkland Road, on the west by 1st Pathan Street and on the east by Khumbharwada Street.

Committee:—To be formed.

Sub-section 6.—Bounded on the north by Durgadavi Road, on the west by Trimbak Purashram Street, on the south by Falkland Road, and on the east by 1st Pathan Street.

Committee:—To be formed.

Sub-section 7.—Bounded on the north by Grant Road, on the south by Durgadavi Road, on the east by Duncan Road, and on the west by Northbrook Street.

Committee:—Mr. Oosmantoola Khan and Mr. De Souza.

BHULESHWAR SECTION.

Sub-section 1.—Bounded on the north by Cawasji Patel Tank Road, on the west by Bhuleshwar Road, on the east by Keeka Street and on the south by Pinjrapole Road.

Committee.—Messrs. Chunilal Nagindas Shroff, Dhirajram Goculdas, Brijvalabh Munsukhram, Harichund Muncharam, and a Parsee gentleman.

Sub-section 2.—Bounded on the north by Pinjrapole Road, on the west by Bhuleshwar Road, on the east by Keeka Street, and on the south by Bhoiwada.

Committee.—Dr. Motilal Hurkisondas, Hon'ble Mr. Goculdas Kahandas Parakh, Messrs. Munchashunker Jeevunram, Jamiatram Jeevunram, Chuganlal Brijvalabhdas, and Mr. M. N. Bhat.

Sub-section 3.—Bounded on the north and east by Bhuleshwar Road, on the south by Kalbadavi Road, and on the west by Portuguese Church Street.

Committee:—Messrs. Munmohundas Dayaldas, Ishwardas Tribhovandas, Dayabhoy Tapidas, Nagindas Bhucandas, Maneckial Damodhur, and Drs. Merchant and Chunilal G. Gundevia.

Sub-section 4.—Bounded on the north by 3rd Bhoiwada, on the south by Kalbadevi Road, on the west by Bhuleshwar Road, and on the east by Parel Road.

Committee:—Messrs. Runchordas Kalabhoy Shroff, Vithaldas Hurkisondas, Gulabdas Gungadas and Purmanand Icharam.

Sub-section 5.—Bounded on the north by Pinjrapole Street, on the south by Bania Street, on the east by Gogari Mohalla and on the west by Kika Street.

Committee:—Messrs. Buduroodin Abdulla Kur, Ghirdhur Dhurmsey.

Sub-section 6.—Bounded on the north by Guzar Street, on the north by Erskine Road, on the east by Parel Road and on the west by Dhaboo Street.

Committee.—Messrs. Hussanali Mahomedali, Hakimji Adamji and Hassanali Moola Hakimji.

KHARA TALAO SECTION.

Sub-section 1.—Bounded on the north by Grant Road, on the east by Khoja Street, on the west by Duncan Road, and on the south by Erskine Road.

Committee.—Messrs. Noorbhoy Budabhoy, Vanmali das Jeevandas, and Purshotum Jasrai.

Sub-section 2.—Bounded on the north by Guzar Street, on the south by Erskine Road, on the east by Dhaboo Street, and on the west by Khoja Street.

Committee:—Messrs. Hussanali Mahomedali, Hakimji Adumji, and Hussanali Moola Hakimji.

Sub-section 3.—Bounded on the north by second Duncan Cross Road, on the south by Guzar Street, on the east by Dhaboo Street, and on the west by Khoja Street.

Committee:—Subedar Sultanali, Dr. Khaja Abdulla, Messrs Haji Samsoodin Moorgay, Queen Sophia and King Mucunda Magroob.

Sub-section 4.—Bounded on the north by Grant Road, on the south by Duncan Cross and Batty Poads, on the east Parel Road, and on the west by Khoja Street.

Committee:—Moulvi Hidayatoola, Messrs. Haji Cassam Guni, and Abdulla Carrimkhan.

Sub-section 5.—Bounded on the north by Yacoob Street, on the east by Parel Road, on the south Guzar Street, and on the west by Dhaboo Street.

Committee:—Messrs. Valleji Karimbhoy, Karim Isac, Khatri Oosman, Mahomed Cassim Kurtey, Mahomedali Jungakar, Dawoodbhoy Mestry, and Ahmed Ismail Gogari.

Sub-section 6.—Bounded on the north by Erskine Road, on the east by Gogari Mohalla, on the south by Pinjrapole Street and on the west by Kika Street.

Committee:—Messrs. Budroodin Abdula Kur, Moonshi Mahomed Gare Goolam Russool Londes, Khatri Isac, Khatri Oosman Mahomed Kassum Kurtey, Mahomedali Jungaker, Dawoodbhoy Mestry, and Ahmed Ismail Gogari.

Sub-section 7.—Bounded on the north by Erskine Road, on the east by Parel Road and on the south and west by Gogari Mohalla.

Committee.—Messrs. Fakeermahomed Atashkhan, Dawodbhoy Mestry, Sharfoodin Ghattee Pestonji Kerbadji, Haji Ebrahim Patel and Dr. Heerjibhoy Apoo.

INDIAN YARN IN CHINA.

MESSRS. FRAMJEE HORMUSJEE and Co.'s Cotton Circular, dated Hong Kong March 4 says:—Though Rupee exchange has continued on a lower level than was recorded during the last fortnight, there has been neither a rise in values nor any increase in demand during the period. If anything inquiries were very much limited, and, had it not been for the low range of exchange, rates under the present tendency of dealers would have had a decline. The only relieving feature against the present factors has been some good clearances of previous purchases on the part of dealers, but from further loading themselves they have been much scared away by the uncertainty of Rupee exchange, as also by the uncertain feeling entertained for forward silver owing to certain reports circulated as to future enhancement of duty in India. However, if present clearances meet with a fair reception in the country markets, an increase in inquiry is very much looked forward, especially if rates continue the same as they do now. Sales during the period total 5,000 bales made up of

				dlrs.		dlrs.	dlrs.
1,600 bales of No.	20	sold at	91	to	102 and	104 1-2
450	do.	16	do.	87	to	99	
775	do.	12	do.	80	to	91	
2,000	do.	10	do.	76	to	92 and	94 1-2
75	do.	8	do.	77	to	80	
100	do.	6	do.	76	to	79	

reducing unsold stocks—under arrivals of about 14,217 bales and shipments coastwise and Northwards of about 6,000 bales—to about 82,000 bales consisting of

6,000 bales of No. 20		11,000 bales of No.	10
6,000 do.	16	2,000 do.	8
5,000 do.	12	2,000 do.	6

Japanese Spinnings have been sold to the extent of 800 bales Nos. 20 and 16 at dols. 99 to dols. 103 and dols. 98 to dols. 100 respectively. Exchange on India closes down to Rs. 136 wire and Rs. 136 1-2 post.

In Shanghai, despite a severe decline in Rupee exchange of about five points, there has been hardly any rise in rates, and the market has been very quiet during the fortnight. Only about 4,500 bales could be worked out. Dealers have had their attention to shipping by the first batch of steamers about 15,000 bales of their previous purchases to Tientsin, where the market is said to be bare of stocks, and on the results of these shipments the future course of the market very much depends. Sale comprise about.

3,300 bales of No.	20	sold at Tls.	75.50	to 80.75
400	16		73 50	77.50
100	12		69	72.25
700	10		65.50	71

Unsold stocks has been estimated there at about 15,500 bales. Of local spinnings there has been a more active inquiry, and large sales have taken place at advancing prices, best No. 16 selling at Tls. 78 duty paid. Of Japanese about 850 bales Nos. 20 and 16 have been sold during the fortnight at Tls. 78.75 to Tls. 80 for No. 20, and Tls. 76.75 to Tls. 77.50 for No. 16. Exchange, as on the 28th ultimo, has been advised at Rs. 186 wire and 186 1-2 post.

In Japan the market has ruled extremely quiet, and prices have been nominally quoted the same as last recorded.

THE ARMY REFORMS.

PARLIAMENTARY papers have been issued setting forth the Ministerial plans of Army reform, and Estimates and Supplementary Estimates, concerning which so much has recently been said. The "Daily News" gives a useful analysis of the Estimates, setting forth the difference between last year's estimated Army expenditure and the present year's From this it is seen that it is not £880,000, as it appears to be in the Estimates for 1898-99; it is not even £1,646,000, as Lord Lansdowne's memorandum admits it would be but for an "arrangement" which casts £766,000 into a supplementary vote for 1897-98. It is over two millions sterling, or to be precise, £2,170,000, as can be seen by simply putting two and two together thus and then doing a sum in subtraction:—

Estimates and Supplementary Estimates to March, 1898	£19,630,500
Present Estimate to March, 1899	19,220,500
Total, March, 1897, to March, 1899	£38,851,000

More than a million and a quarter is put down as supplementary estimates (£1,290,000). Of this sum £283,000 is for Volunteer pay and allowances due on April, 1, 1898; but the balance is mainly due to the increased forces in Egypt and South Africa, and to the extra expenditure needed for clothing and stores and other supplies needed for the increased Army of the coming year.

A military programme to be carried out by instalments (just like the naval shipbuilding) was framed last year, according to which about 9,000 men were to be added to our military strength, and of these 2,632 during the financial year ending next month. In continuance of that programme, the next year's estimate will provide for the addition of about 3,000 men; and when these increases have been obtained, there will remain 2,183 of all ranks to be added to the Garrison Artillery, and 953 of all ranks to be added to the Foot Guards.

THE NEW PROGRAMME.

The Estimates for next year provide for a bigger increase in the Army, extending the ultimate addition to our forces by 25,000 instead of 9,000, as proposed last year. The Secretary of State explains that recent developments in various parts of the world, and a further consideration of our requirements for the defence of the Empire at home and abroad, have shown that the increases contemplated in the Estimates of last year will not be sufficient for the purpose of placing the various branches of the Service in a position to carry out satisfactorily the duties required of them.

The new additions contemplated are:—

Cavalry	684
Horse and Field Artillery	3,257
Garrison	73
Infantry	12.045
	16,059
1897-98 Programme	9,024
Total	25,083

The increase of Vote A (number of men) is, on the New Estimates, 21,739; but, of course, only the pay of those to be added this year is asked for. The additions for the present year are six battalions to the infantry.

THE PROPOSED REFORMS.

It is proposed to raise the two cavalry regiments in Natal to foreign establishment, and to increase the strength of the regiment at home, which has been on a specially low establishment. For the above purposes 311 men and 187 horses are required. It is, moreover, proposed to increase the efficiency of the eight regiments on the higher establishment at home by adding thirty-two horses to each, or 256 in all.

It is also proposed to commence at once to raise six new battalions—as large a number as can probably be completed without undue delay—and to add these in pairs to existing double-battalion regiments. During the year the position will be further considered, with a view to the ultimate restoration of the proper balance between the force at home and that permanently required abroad. Provision is also made for maintaining at a strength of 600 men the depots required to provide drafts for certain regiments of which both battalions may be expected to remain for some time to come. It is therefore proposed to add eighty rank-and-file to the establishment of home battalions, raising it from 720 to 800.

The proportion of guns to bayonets is now to be about five guns per 1,000 bayonets, or twenty batteries (horse and field) for each Army Corps. A total of sixty-four batteries will be required involving an increase of twelve batteries, of seventy-two guns. It is, moreover, intended to maintain three batteries of howitzers. The formation of three batteries will be spread over three years, and provision is made for five batteries in 1898-99. The depots of the horse and field artillery will be increased to an establishment of about 1,590, in order that recruits may receive some preliminary training before being passed into the batteries at home.

Reforms are also proposed in the matter of allowances, deferred pay, and reserve pay.

THE ALBION MILK AND SULPHUR SOAP. —Pure, Mild, and Emollient.—This essentially complexion Soap is most agreeable and beneficial in use, especially where the skin is sensitive, or has become roughened by exposure on land or sea. It never irritates, and hence with its soothing and pleasantly purifying tendency is particularly valuable in hot climates. A luxury for the Toilet and the Bath. Indispensable for Children, Creamy lathers, delicately perfumed. Sold by all Chemists and Stores.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth, go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to the taste, it produces natural quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pains, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhoea, whether arising from teething or other cause. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine Dealers everywhere at 1s. 1½d. per bottle.

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT RADICAL PREMIER?

In the guise of a conversation with a "high authority," Mr. H. W. Lucy gives, in this month's "Strand Magazine," some frank criticisms of "possible Premiers" on the Radical benches in the House of Commons.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT.

"Harcourt" (the eminent one is represented as saying) "will never be Premier; and, though not personally enamoured of his company, I profoundly regret it. It is an unexpected, undeserved termination of a hard-working, brilliant, and, I believe, purely patriotic career. Harcourt has made great sacrifices of ease, time, and money for the public service. As you know, when he decided upon a political career, he deliberately sacrificed a large and increasing income at the Parliamentary Bar. What he has since received in the way of Ministerial salary is probably not equal to sixpence in the pound on what he would have netted had he stuck to his work in the Committee-rooms upstairs. . . . . . The present Government will unquestionably live into the next century. In the year 1900 Harcourt will be seventy-three. What Mr G. is accustomed to call the incurable disease of old age will bar Sir William Harcourt's enjoyment of a justly-earned prize.

LORD ROSEBERY.

"Lord Rosebery is still in the running, but is handicapped by a disqualification that, when the time of trial comes, will probably prove as fatal as that which with quite different bearing hampers his esteemed friend and former colleague. During his brief tenure of No. 10 Downing Street, Rosebry left nothing to be desired from a Prime Minister—nothing save peace and harmony in the Cabinet. In the concurrent office of Leader of the House of Lords, he was without a rival, a forman worthy of the sword of the veteran Leader of the Opposition. Regarded as a public speaker, he was as effective on the platform as in his place in Parliament. In brief, he has but one disqualification for the high position to which he was called. He is a peer. Even with the Conservatives, of whose party the House of Lords is a rampart, the inconvenience of having the Premier outside the House of Commons is acutely felt. With Liberals such an arrangement is a contradiction of first principles.

SIR H. CAMPBELL BANNERMAN.

"Apart from Sir William Harcourt and Lord Rosebery, the front Opposition bench is not lacking in men who would make passable Premiers. Campbell Bannerman, for example, would be a model leader of the House of Commons, and a safe Prime Minister. That he should not have come more rapidly and more prominently to the front is one of the unexpected turns of political life. The main reason is, I believe that, uninfluenced by a well-known example in other quarters, he lets things slide. Someone has truly said that if he had been born to a patrimony not exceeding £300 a year, he would long ago have been Leader of the House of Commons. A naturally indolent dispsition completes the swamping influence of excessive wealth.

SIR H. FOWLER.

"Sir Henry Fowler is another thoroughly safe man perhaps a little too safe to aspire to satisfy the popular idea of a Prime Minister. He is more akin to the type of the present Lord Kimberley, and the late Lord Iddesleigh, than to that either of Mr. Disraeli or Mr. Gladstone. Yet few men of less than twenty years' standing in the House of Commons have made such steady advance in their political career as has the ex-Mayor of Wolverhampton.

MR. ASQUITH'S PROPHECY.

"Assuming, of course, that they live and work, I think you will find a future—I do not say absolutely the next—Liberal Prime Minister in one or two of Sir William Harcourt's colleagues on the Front Opposition Bench. If you ask Asquith which of the two will come out first in the running, he will have no difficulty in deciding. He is not a man who wears his heart upon his sleeve, nor is he given to vain boasting. Yet eight years ago, whilst he could not be said as yet to have made his mark upon the House of Commons, I heard him, at a friend's dinner table, quietly announce that he intended some day to be Prime Minister. What Asquith lacks for the rapid achievement of his settled plan is more blood. Iron he has in plenty, and of excellent quality. He is failing in that sympathetic touch with the multitude which was one of the chief and abiding causes of Mr. G.'s supreme power. Asquith addressing a mass of humanity, whether in the House of Commons or from a public platform, can bring conviction to the mind. He cannot touch the passions.

MR ASQUITH'S ONLY RIVAL.

"Asquith's only rival in sight among the younger men in the Liberal camp is the grand-nephew of the great Earl Grey. I have heard Mr. G. say Edward Grey is the only man he knew in the long course of his experience who might be anything he pleased in political life and seemed content to be hardly anything. The public know little of the young member for Berwick-on-Tweed. The present House of Commons knows little more, and was perhaps, not deeply impressed by the rare opportunity of forming a judgment supplied towards the close of last session. It is Gladstone and other Nestors of the party whose profound belief in the young man fixes attention upon him. Here, even more hopelessly than in the case of Campbell-Bannerman, the potentialities of a possibly great career are influenced by total absence of pushfulness. Edward Grey does not want anything but to be left alone, supplied with good tackle, and favoured with fine weather for fishing. He would rather hook a twenty-pound salmon in the Tweed than hook a fat seal of office in the neighbourhood of Downing Street. But he is only thirty-five, just ten years younger than Asquith, and no one can say what chances and changes the new century may bring."

LIFE IN THE HAREEM.

A LADY who acted as governess to the family of an Egyptian Pasha contributes to the current number of the "Humanitarian" an interesting article on the women of the Hareem.

During a residence of two winters in Egypt, under exceptional opportunities for observation, she says, I never saw the "hareem" violated. The veiled female may pursue her avocations; fuel collecting, vending her merchandise, purchasing family supplies, cooking in the market place, washing clothing in the river or canal, unmolested by the stare, the sneer, the gibe, that too often greets the working woman in other countries; even the female beggar is sacred when shrouded in her torn and tattered veil, clasping her babe to her breast.

The independence of the female is recognised in many respect, in particular by her retaining her own name after marriage. One never hears of "Mrs. Ahmed," or "Mrs, Murad." Neither does custom attach the title of the man to the cognomen of the wife: women are usually entitled "Hanoum."

Our family consisted of the princess, her husband's sister, a sister of the sister-in-law's husband, the four children, and myself. This number was frequently augmented by female guests, who passed days, sometimes weeks, with us. The table at dinner was tastefully decked, in conformity with European custom, with silver, glass, china, linen, and fresh flowers, the viands being served through a small sliding panel to the maids who attended the princess and her suite, the butler never seeing the family nor being seen by us. If, by chance, the panel was left open, and the man appeared within range of any lady's face, she interposed her napkin between her face and his view until the panel was closed; even the maids stood invisible at one side of the window, when necessary, to speak to the men who served in the pantry.

The after-ablutions include cleansing the mouth. This is done by thrice filling the right hand with fresh (flowing) water, and throwing it into the mouth. The index finger is then introduced on the left side, the upper and lower teeth vigorously rubbed, the thumb then introduced on the opposite side, and the teeth likewise treated, the hands being again thoroughly washed with a liberal allowance of soap and water abundantly poured over them. I never learned to douche my mouth, but reqired to my room where maids and children frequently witnessed my use of the toothbrush, but insisted that their method surpassed mine in thoroughness and antiquity.

A spacious marble court connected the two wings of the palace, the larger being sacred to the hareem and the smaller being occupied by the pasha, his brother-in-law (the "bey"), and several secretaries and professors, a large school-room being situated in this wing. Whenever occasion obliged a female to visit this wing, she veiled herself with as much precision as if going abroad. The little princess and myself had to obey this rule when attending school. The pasha and the bey had their private apartments on the second floor of this wing, where were also located several other suites of bed-chambers and dressing-rooms, occupied by the children, and their mother and aunt. Whenever the husband intends to visit his wife, he sends an eunuch or maid to notify her. He does not intrude upon her unannounced or unexpectedly. Should his wife be engaged in making her toilet (for otherwised,) he waits her pleasure to admit him. I have known the pasha attend thus half-an-hour while his wife's maids completed her toilet.

The reputed indolence of the women of the hareem is quite as mythical as are many of the other legends with which we are familiar; it was not unusual for the princess to supervise and assist her maids, in the early dawn, whilst they swept and dusted the immense halls and drawing-rooms, she herself re-arranging the furniture and draperies, especially the adjustment of numberless Cashmeer shawls with which her favourite boudoir was adorned the morning work accomplished, mistress and maids reposed and refreshed themselves with a calmness foreign to the bustling housewife of colder climes. The sewing women applied themselves diligently, but when the hours of relaxation arrived they played among and with the children, in all the abandon of inscent girlhood. Hide and seek was their favourite pastime, in which I occasionally joined, even the stately sister of the pasha sometimes deigned to quicken her pace in this quest of her hidden niece and nephews when a frolicsome chase would send her to cover in more secluded paths in the lovely gardens and orange groves where we played.

THE FUTURE OF NIGERIA.

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Daily Chronicle" writes:—

I have been making careful inquiries in specially well-informed quarters respecting the important changes now pending in the vast territories hitherto assigned to the Royal Niger Company, and which are included in the general term of "Nigeria."

I am glad to say that, as a result of my inquiries, I learn that the Niger Companies territories are to be taken over by the Imperial Government; the Niger Coast Protectorate and the Niger territories will be incorporated into one administration, divided into a number of districts; there will be an assimilation of tariffs between Lagos and "Nigeria." So much is well known to those who are interested in the West African trade. What is not so well known is—I have it on excellent authority—that the date has been actually fixed for the transfer, and that on March 31 next "Nigeria" will come under direct Imperial control.

Moreover, the compensation to be given to the Company has been provided for in the forthcoming Budget, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer will duly make the announcement in his Budget speech. This you may take to be absolutely authentic. What the amount of that compensation will be is a matter of keen interest to Liverpool men, who have been rather dreading that "Nigeria" would be saddled with a heavy debt and its development retarded in consequence. If my information is correct, these fears are groundless, as the compensation is to be borne by the Imperial Exchequer.

The whole of the administrative functions of the Royal Niger Company will be taken over, together with the plant, &c., save what may be required by the Company for trading purposes; for it is generally understood that the Company will continue its trading operations. There is a danger which Liverpool and Manchester men, and indeed all who are interested in West Africa, have to guard against. That danger is the possible retention by the Company, after it has ceased to hold administrative powers, of trading advantages not enjoyed by all merchants. Any attempt to confer differential trading advantages upon the Niger Company after the revocation of the Charter would be resisted.

In the opinion of those persons who are competent to judge, and who enjoy special facilities for distinguishing what is truth from what is mere exaggerated rumour, the large departures of officers to Lokoja are attributable to the impending administrative changes in the Niger territories, rather than to any aggressive movement against the French. One thing is certain, a permanent force of 5,000 men will be established on the Niger under Imperial officers. This force will be amply sufficient to assure British supremacy throughout the length and breadth of the Niger basin. The river flotilla will consist before the end of the year of half a dozen well-armoured, light draught gunboats.

A DUCHESS'S ROMANTIC LIFE.

IN "Memoirs of a Highland Lady," the autobiography of Mrs. Smith of Baltiboys, this charming sketch is given of Jane, Duchess of Gordon:—"This beautiful and very cultivated woman had never, I fancy, lived happily with her Duke. His habits and her temper not suiting, they found it a wise plan to separate, and she had for the last few years spent her summers at a little farm on the Badenoch property, a couple of miles higher up the Spey than our Doune, and on the opposite side of the water. She inhabited the real old farm house of Kinrara, the same our good cousin Cameron had lived in, and where I have heard my mother say that the Duchess was happier and more agreeable, and the society she gathered round her far pleasanter, than it ever was afterwards in the new cottage villa she built about a mile nearer to us. It was a sort of backwoods life, charming to young people amid such scenery, a dramatic emancipation from the forms of society that for a little while every season was delightful, particularly as there was no real roughing in it. In the 'but' and the 'ben,' constituting the small farm cabin it was, she and her daughter Lady Georgina dwelt. By the help of white calico, a little whitewash, a little paint, and plenty of flowers, they made their apartment quite pretty. What had been kitchen at one end of the house was elevated by various contrivances into a sitting-room; a barn was fitted up into a barrack for ladies, a stable for gentlemen; a kitchen was easily formed out of some of the out-offices, and in it, without his battery, without his stove, without his thousand and one assistants and resources, her French cook sent up dinners still talked of by the few remaining partakers. The entrees were all prepared in one black pot—a large potato chaudron, which he had ingeniously divided within into four compartments by means of two pieces of tin-sheet, crossed, the only inconvenience of this clever plan being that the company had to put up with all white sauces one day and all brown the next. Her favourite footman, Long James, a very handsome, impudent person, but an excellent servant for that sort of wild life, able to put his hand to any work, played the violin remarkably well, and as every tenth Highlander at least plays on the same instrument tolerably, there was no difficulty in getting up a highly satisfactory band on any evening that guests were disposed for dancing. Half the London world of fashion, all the clever people that could be hunted out from all parts, all the north country, all the neighbourhood from far and near, without regard to wealth or station, and all the kith and kin of both Gordons and Maxwells, flocked to this encampment in the wilderness during the fine autumns to enjoy the free life, the pure air, and the wit and fun the Duchess brought with her to the mountains."

PAINFUL STORY OF AN OLD COUPLE.

A POOR old woman named Mary Ann Pope has just died in Peckham under extremely painful circumstances. With her husband, Thomas Pope, she occupied a single room at No. 48 Blakes Road, Peckham She was 73 years of age, and her husband, who is partially paralysed, is two years older. They had been married nearly 45 years, and although for sometime past they have lived in a state bordering on destitution, they were formerly in comfortable circumstances, and were always looked upon as a devoted hard-working couple. A short time since it came to their knowledge that the woman was entitled to £300 under the will of her uncle, her mother's brother, who was a farm bailiff to Major Galland, of Swaffham, in Norfolk. When he died, the whereabouts of the legatee was unknown to the executors, of the will. She was adveritisd for in the name of Mary Ann Larner (her maiden name), but the advertisement did not come under her notice, and the money was put into Chancery. Some years elapsed before the Popes heard of their good fortune, and then they were informed that they were too late, the money having been claimed and paid over to a woman who appeared to be named as the reversionary legatee. For some time Mr. and Mrs. Pope were supplied with small sums of money by a lady who had interested herself in their case, and had satisfied herself that Mrs. Pope was entitled to the money which was in Chancery. When, however, she discovered that the legacy had been claimed by and paid to another person she discontinued her assistance, and the old people were again thrown on their own resources. Mr. Pope earned a little money by mending shoes; but they got behind with their rent, and were compelled to leave their lodgings in Dragon Road. They then went to live with a Mrs. Bond at 48 Blakes Road, and rented a small room at the back of the first floor, which was used as a workshop, living-room, and bed-room. The husband was only able to earn a trifle occasionally, seldom more than 2s. 6d. per week. Four years ago the couple were allowed 2s. a week by the parish, which was continued for two years. At the end of this time the relieving officer informed them that they must go into the workhouse. This they both resolutely refused to do. Pope said he would rather drown himself. The relief was stopped, and for the last two years the old couple have lived almost entirely upon bread crusts and tea, the leaves of which were boiled over and over again. Owing to the feeble state of the man's health his earnings became less and less, until last week he received only four pence for repairing a pair of boots. With that he brought a pennyworth of tea, a pennyworth of sugar, and two-penny worth of coal. On this and a few dried crusts which were given them they had to live for seven days. On Saturday night Mrs. Pope went out to get three pairs of boots which her husband was to repair, and for which he would have received 10d. When she returned Mrs. Pope complained of feeling ill, and went to bed. At three o'clock in the morning she awoke, and complained of feeling cold and hungry. The husband lighted a fire with a few sticks, and boiled over again the tea leaves; but when he turned to the bed he found that his wife was dead. The landlady, aroused by his cries, went into the room and found the man almost frantic with grief. In his frenzy he threatened to kill himself with his shoemaker's knife, but was eventually pacified. The woman had been reduced to a skeleton before she died.

AN entertaining anecdote in connection with the Gros Lot of the Paris Exhibition of the last year of the century is told by the *Chronicle's* correspondent. It seems that the winner, a M. Giot, is a well-known Collectivist. During some recent municipal elections Ivry he made several violent speeches against the Neo-Socialist candidate, declaring that the division of property was an urgent and necessary doctrine. His brother now asks him to "Socialise" a portion of the 500,000f. so luckily obtained, but M. Giot takes another view of the situation.

YOUR OLD FRIEND.—There is a sense of comfort in a good old friend, which no new friendship can supply. CLEAVER'S TEREBENE SOAP is your good old friend, for it has outstayed and beaten the hosts of Soaps which, during the last 20 years, have been introduced. And why is this? Because it really possesses the properties claimed for it. It is the best Soap for the Skin and Complexion ever known. It completely relieves the irritation resulting from prickly heat the bites and stings of insects, and other similar causes. Its perfume is simply that of the pine, the most soothing and healing scent in the world.

ECHOES OF SCIENCE.

We so often read of the transmission of light by electricity, or an apparatus which will enable us to see by wire as the telephone makes us hear, that the telegram from Austria announcing the solution of the problem by a Pole named Szczepanik will not create a panic. Many have tried their hands at this invention, but with scant success. We do not mean to say that the Pole has not succeeded, but we prefer to wait for full particulars before crediting the report. It may turn out that his invention, if genuine, is only an approximation to the desired end, as Lippmann's iridescent photographs are to photography in colours.

Szczepanik is a name well known to the British Patent Office for electrical devices in connection with the patterns of looms and photographic designs of the patterns. Some of these are highly ingenious, and, if he be the same Szczepanik, may have led him to the question of transmitting light by electricity.

The Patent Office Library, which is so useful to the technical public, and so well conducted by its courteous and instructive librarian, Mr. Hulme, is about to forsake its old quarters in Southampton Buildings, Chancery-lane, for temporary premises, while awaiting the completion of its new home in course of construction. For a long time past the accommodation in the old library has been growing too small, and the change will be welcome. It would, however, be a pity, we think, if the freedom which visitors now enjoy in the old library were curtailed by stricter regulations, and more official interference. It is the peculiar charm of this library that visitors are free enough to feel at home in it, to a far greater degree than in the Reading Room of the British Museum (especially of late), and happily, one can also say that this freedom is very seldom abused.

In the spectrum of sunlight, certain lines are believed to represent oxygen, but the question is whether the oxygen, is in the sun or only in the earth's atmosphere. Recent observations by Mr. Jewell, of the John Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S., have shown that these lines vary with the altitude of the sun, and he concludes that they are caused by the terrestrial atmosphere.

It is well known that Rontgen rays act on the skin, burning it brown like sunlight, and even blistering it if long applied to it. M. Lecercle finds that radiation of heat from the skin is increased when the Rontgen rays fall upon it, and that this increase of radiation continues after the rays are withdrawn.

The electric railway being built up the Jungfrau begins at the Scheidegg station of the Wengernalp Railway, and the first stage to the Eiger Glacier is nearly complete. Much of it is in tunnel, and the rock drills are worked by electricity. The water power to work the dynamos is obtained from two branches of the Lutschine at Borglaenen and Lauterbrunnen. The electricity will be conducted to the trains by trolley wires.

Romanes showed that seeds could be kept a year or more in a vaccuum without detriment to them, and it has also been found that when sealed in vaccuum tubes they do not exhale nitrogen or carbonic acid. Professor Dewar and Mr. Horace Brown have demonstrated that seeds can be submitted to a temperature as low as that of liquid air (180° below zero Centigrade) for 100 hours without impairing their power of germination.

A German journal states that the phonograph is now used in the Spanish telephone service. Messages are spoken into it, and the instrument repeats them to the telephone, We also learn that the messages are received on a phonograph at the distant station. If all this be true, Spain has at length shown symptoms of the scientific spirit, and takes a step beyond the other nations.

Mr. C. F. Holder, an American naturalist, has found a small fish in some islands of the Pacific Coast which leaves the water to hunt on land. It clings to stones by a sucker on the tail fins. Amphibious fishes are not a novelty. The European blenny has this habit. So have the tropical "gobies" and the "climbing perch" of India, which migrates from one pool to another. In fact there is quite a long list of them.

Naturalists may set their minds at rest as to whether the black bass, an American fish, hibernates in winter. A pond of the State Fish Hatchery, St. Joseph, Mo., was recently drained, and so few bass were found that the authorities supposed some poachers had taken them, but after a time a man stumbled over a fish on the dry bed of the pond and discovered that a large number of bass were snugly ensconced 12 inches deep in the mud.

Severe illness, especially if accompanied by reading to pass the time is often a cause of weak eye-sight. Excess of wind, dust, light, or heat also tends to impair the sight. Fresh air and exercise are good for the eyes. Study, or constrained attention on writing and other sedentary tasks, particularly by artificial or dim daylight, is bad for the eyes.

According to Dr. Hicks, President of the Geological Society, there is no doubt that men existed in North and South Wales before the Glacial Period. They lived in caverns, where their flints are still found, along with the bones of extinct animals. The glaciers afterwards rendered some of these caves uninhabitable.

Professor J. C. Ewart, F.R.S., in the "Zoologist," says that hybrids of the horse and zebra (Burchill' zebra) are as shapely and attractive as they are useful and hardy. It only remains to utilise them in various parts of the Empire.

Mr. C. L. Wragge has founded a meteorological observatory on Mount Kosciusko, 7,328 feet above the sea and the highest point in Australia. It is supplemented by a shore station on the adjacent coast at Merimbula. Australasia has other stations, at Sydney, at Sale in Victoria, and at Hobart Town and Mount Wellington in Tasmania.

The Physical Society of Frankfort-on-Main proposes to erect a monument to Philipp Reis, the first inventor of a telephone. The Reis apparatus could transmit musical notes, and even a few spoken words, imperfectly. The memorial is expected to cost £1,500. Reis was neglected, and even laughed at in his lifetime. The money required for the monument would have saved him much anxiety in his life, and perhaps enabled him to perfect his invention.

At Stassfurt sodium sulphate has for many years been manufactured from the sulphate of magnesia, contained in kieserit and others of the Abraumsalze, so named because they used to be cleared away as useless in days gone by, and from the rock salt abounding there. If a mixture of these two salts in the proportion of 2 : 1 is cooled down to 5 deg. 7 Cent. and lower, sulphate of sodium crystallises out. In the Caspian Sea nature has been carrying on this process, and we may expect to see soda works rise there, which may revolutionise the soda industry of the Russian Empire. Nearly opposite Baku, on the eastern shore of the Caspian, is the Bay of Kara Bugas, a vast basin not much smaller than Wales, communicating with the Caspian by a narrow channel only. The evaporation in this bay, whose depth nowhere exceeds 50 feet, is so rapid that there is a constant inrush of water from the Caspian. The water of the Caspian is already salt; it contains 0·780 grammes of NaCl, 0·304 of $MgSO_4$. 0·084 of $CaSO_4$, besides minor quantities of chlorides and carbonates per litre. The high percentage of magnesia is very striking. The water of the bay is much more salt, and the conditions are such that the formation of sodium sulphate ought to take place, in which case the glauber salt ought to collect on the bottom. A committee was appointed to investigate the question, and we see from Kusnetzow's report that a few crystals of $CaSO_4$ were found near the entrance of the bight, and that they became frequent further in the interior. The bottom of the bight proper was covered with a crust of crystallised glauber salt 1 foot in thickness. This natural treasure of Na_2SO_4 has been estimated at 1,000 million tons. The bay is well sheltered; many ships cross the Caspian already, from the Volga to Baku and the Persian ports; there is the railway line to Samarkand starting further south from Osmnada. Fuel, mazut, the distillation residue of the petroleum, is plentiful at Baku. The almost uninhabited Ust Urt, the land between the Caspian Sea and the Sea of Aral, may become a manufacturing country.

"PICTURES of the German Fleet" is a book containing twelve heliotypes by the artist Hans Bohrdt, with a historical sketch by the same. The German Emperor has accepted the dedication of the work, and has praised its theme and execution. The text and illustrations go as far back as the Viking ships. There are pictures and explanatory notes of and to the Bunte Kuh, the Admiral's ship used by Simon von Utrecht in the fourteenth century; the Fredekogge, a type of the ships of the 15th century; and the Kaiser Leopold, with which the Hamburger Captain Karpfanger partly destroyed, partly set to flight five French ships from Dunkirk in the 17th century. A picture of the Cour-Brandenburg fleet in the time of the great Kurfurst forms the transition to modern times, the finest ships of which in the German fleet are also pictured.

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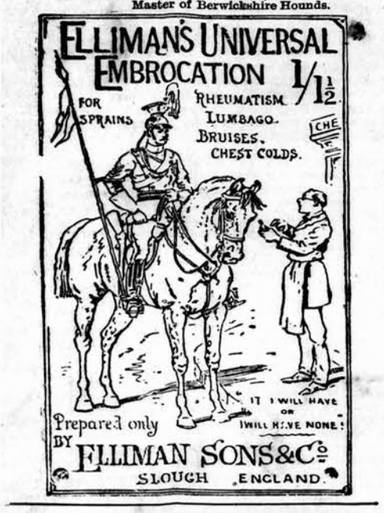

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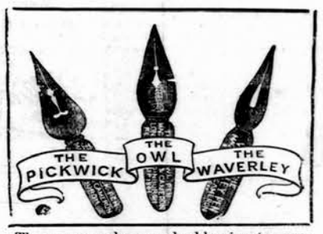

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AUTHORITATIVE ANALYSIS.

"CHEMICAL LABORATORY, 54, Holborn Viaduct, London. January 18th, 1888. I hereby certify that I have submitted to a careful examination and chemical analysis, a sample purchased by myself from the stock of a well-known firm of wholesale druggists, of the preparation known as 'Koko for the Hair.' I have found nothing in this preparation which could be injurious either to the head or hair, and the results of the analysis lead me to pronounce 'Koko for the Hair' a pleasant dressing, which would undoubtedly be advantageous in many cases. I discovered in the preparation no ingredients of the nature of a colouring matter or dye.
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"Member of the Society of Public Analysts, &c."

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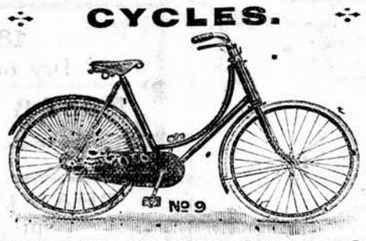

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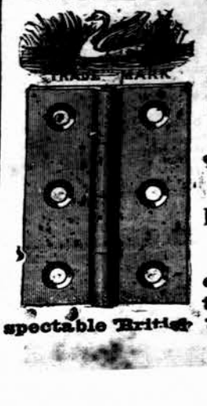

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